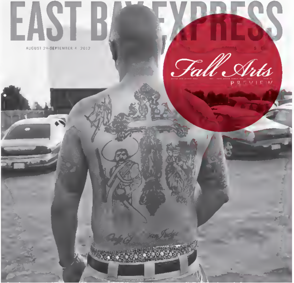
EAST BAY EXPRESS

AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 4, 2012



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On the Cover *Photo by Ken and Melanie Light from the Valley of Shadows and Dreams exhibit at the Oakland Museum of California.*

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NEWS OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
HOW MUCH GARBAGE DOES IT TAKE TO TREAT A PATIENT?

How Much Garbage Does It Take to Treat a Patient?

Here's Hoping

Twenty-two years ago, the facilities director at the San Jose Medical Center asked me, as a consultant, to set up a sterile field and sort "red bag waste" against the then-new Title 22 regulations on exactly what was infectious. We discovered that about 85 percent of what was in the red bags (at 22 cents per pound versus trash at about 5-6 cents per pound picked up) meant they were killing themselves with costs: the director assigned a staff person to watch operating room, emergency room, and all other sites for correct use of red bags and paid for his salary immediately. Anybody overusing red bags today is just stupid.

Alameda County banned the incineration of municipal solid waste in the county in 1990; shipping the stuff out of county to autoclave-and-bury or to burn is a subterfuge and not the answer. As author Kathleen Richards notes, plastics are made from high-value raw materials and deserve a better end than roasting-to-sterilize or incineration.

Let's hope somebody cares.

Arthur R. Boone
Center for Recycling Research, Berkeley

A Problem that Doesn't Exist

Ellen Cushing's article in the *Express* about traffic issues surrounding the Art Murmur tries to paint a picture of a problem that simply does not exist. There are no "victims" here. Pickpocketing is a lame excuse for challenging Art Murmur. No food poisoning has been reported, and if firecrackers bother you, don't visit West Oakland on July 4th like I did.

The streets of Uptown are never more safe than they are during Art Murmur and they certainly are way safer than on any given weekday. In seven years of Murmur, no one has gotten hurt, when on any given First Friday there are between 5,000 and 10,000 people enjoying the area, many spilling out onto the streets and all of them walking up and down and crossing the streets during the event. I hear event organizers, candidates for city council, and city staff raising the idea that "someone is going to get hurt," and someone may get hurt, sure — but it won't happen because the streets are dangerous during Art Murmur. There is a story here, it's just not traffic safety. It is an issue of how we make Art Murmur even better.

Controlling traffic is not the way to make people safely enjoy the streets. It's the way to allow more people to better enjoy a kick-ass street party. Closing the streets to traffic will essentially bring an evening Sunday Streets to Oakland every month, and a Sunday Streets party that is way more fun than one on a Sunday morning. And it will bring even more people to Downtown Oakland. We should turn Art Murmur into a monthly evening-time Sunday Streets by closing off the streets to traffic in the Uptown. The bigger the area of street closures, the better the Art Murmur!

The real story that I want to see written has to do making with Telegraph a better street every day. In the last few years Telegraph has had many collisions involving cars with pedestrians and bicyclists, yet the city has not shut the street down to traffic to address this issue (which it shouldn't) and the city still has done nothing to improve Telegraph on a daily basis for people walking and bicycling (which it absolutely should). When Art Murmur grows, bringing thousands of people to Telegraph and there are no collisions, it's a safety in numbers thing. It's also a phenomenon of when streets are for people, they become much safer and when streets are for cars, they are way more dangerous.

How to do it? Telegraph Avenue needs a diet — a road diet. It is way too wide for the traffic it carries and, regardless, there are much better and safer uses of this street than pretending that Uptown is a better neighborhood when lots of cars roll up and down its streets. It is not. It is a better street when we give it wider sidewalks, bike lanes, better transit stops, and, most importantly, more space for Art Murmur patrons to hang out and enjoy the street. A road diet converts streets poorly designed for cars into streets better designed for people, which provides more space for artists and vendors, more space for food trucks, more space for bike parking, more space for residents to enjoy their neighborhood — more space for people. And space for more people to come to downtown Oakland and say "This city rocks!" Art Murmur highlights a timely opportunity the City of Oakland has to reenvision a street like Telegraph and make it a world-class neighborhood boulevard that is safe and a wonderful place to be — not just on First Fridays, but every Friday and every day for everyone.

Dave Campbell, Oakland

Get an Organizer

I have been involved somewhat in this ongoing discussion as I organize large events like the Temescal Street Fair and Rockridge Out and About. The fact that a two-month-old was killed in LA at a similar event makes me more worried than ever that something *really* bad could happen here. Folks cook and serve food out of their coolers and on homemade grills — which is a recipe for food poisoning waiting to happen. In addition to being unfair to the maybe 25 trucks and pop-ups that pay their fees to the Alameda County health department and to the City of Oakland for a business license. There is also a lot of underage drinking, which is worrying.

Art Murmur could solve its money issues with a combination of fairs and festival money placed in this year's budget by Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan, money from both the Uptown and Lake Merritt and the Koreatown-Northgate community business districts, and the money offered on a short-term basis by the city administrator's office. This money and responsibility could go a long way if a professional events coordinator were hired and Telegraph was closed. Otherwise I don't see a responsible and sustainable way forward. That's why Rock Paper Scissors Collective and the Art Murmur group of galleries have stepped aside from sponsoring the event. It's not a lot of fun to always be the ones sweeping up the glass and making sure the street is clean enough on Saturday morning. I also see that person as responsible for raising some money from folks like Pandora, a sympathetic developer or two (?), or other appropriate folks, for the long term health of the event. I realize that the atmosphere of artistic freedom is what makes Murmur so unique. I think the right organizer who is tuned in to the needs of artists, merchants, and the city could create the bridge and keep the success of Murmur from backfiring.

Karen Hester, Oakland

Danger Is Everywhere

People die in car related accidents every day. I don't see how this can be blamed on a gathering of people. If we care about two-month-olds needlessly dying, let's stop the drone attacks in the Middle East.

So, more money and organization can stop someone from losing control of their car? Okay so we need festival organizers to valet park every car within a mile of any public gathering so it doesn't go out of control. If a festival organizer loses control, the parking will have to happen at another location and the people bused in. If the bus driver loses control, people will be airlifted in. If the helicopter pilot loses control… … Okay this is getting too risky. Babies should not be allowed out of the house because they might get hit by a car. It's not recommended for anyone to leave the house because they might get hit by a car. Art should only be enjoyed at home because walking to see it is too dangerous.

Gabriel Lantero, Berkeley

[illegible] News, 8/15

Not Quite Empty

"That's because the lockers offer a total of only forty individual spaces — twelve of which happened to be vacant — and they serve a somewhat rarified clientele."

Must have been an off-day. I regularly see nearly all forty lockers at the MacArthur BART station occupied on weekday mornings. The good news is that BART is about to start construction on a new facility in the plaza that will accommodate a lot more secure bike parking.

Robert Prinz, Oakland

A Diversification of Solutions

How much do security guards cost per shift? Or just fencing off a portion of the bike area and having a valet rather than a security guard? I tip when at a free valet. I don't think the only solution to the problem is hundreds of private lockers — they take up too much space for their variable usage. The bike areas have cameras anyway: why can't I check in on my bike by looking at a streaming video — is there an app for that? — say with a "Holy shit, someone is stealing my bike" button that notifies the station security? Or a notification you can send

THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
THE INVADERS
SAY WHAT?
TO BE CONTINUED...

to everyone that is registered in that station. "Gentleman with a carjack, two front wheels, a seat post, and shopping cart ..." All I'm getting at is $3,000 per unit plus upkeep and revenue may be alternatively spent on a diversification of solutions.

Whitney Lawrence, Oakland

[illegible] 8/8

State of Omission

We accept and appreciate the even handed review of the Missouri Lounge in Ellen Cushing's article, but we're surprised in an article of this length and depth that there was absolutely no mention of one of the best parts of Missouri Lounge: the music. We have some of the most respected and diverse DJs in the Bay Area every single night from 10 p.m.-2 a.m., and also outside some Saturdays and Sundays from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. They include such Bay Area favorites as Joe Quixx, DJ Headache, Kool Kyle, Odd Nosdam, Jel, and DJ No Friends. We also have the longest running open mic (sixteen years) in the East Bay every Wednesday night from 7 p.m.-10 p.m., hosted by the legendary Paul Pot.

Seems like an odd omission but perhaps Ms. Cushing couldn't hear the jams from the bathroom.

Thanks for the kind words.

Missouri Lounge management

Outsourcing Police Feature 8/8

Half Baked

The accounting of allegedly lost revenue is half baked. How many police and police retirees of other cities live in Oakland? If a good number do, the $200 million figure is only one side of the ledger. If not many do, that tells you something about Oakland as a place for middle-class families to live.

The other reality missing from the article is this: Police have to deal with bad people. Really bad people. Operators of lovey-dovey social programs should not project their mentality onto officers.

Charlie Pine, Oakland

More Cops Is the Answer

Most of us want the cops to be more sympathetic/sensitive to/tolerant/aware/knowledgeable of the wide range of people and situations here. But it's not anywhere as clear as you make it out to be that residence or even place of upbringing will achieve those goals.

Even assuming that Oakland residence has the desired effect, how far do we go? Are we to require cops to reside in the zip code of the beat to which we're going to assign them? The demographic differences between, say, Montclair and Peralta and 14th streets is greater than the difference between Tracy and that part of West Oakland.

I agree with the criticism of your assumptions about why cops don't live here. There are serious flaws in your economic analysis also. Regardless of why most cops don't live here and don't retire here, most Oakland residents who are not cops, spend most of their money outside of Oakland except for groceries, restaurants, gasoline, medical care, and of course, rent/house payments. That's the infamous retail sales tax drain here.

So concluding that the money spent on uniformed police compensation is money "lost" to Oakland is grossly overstating the economic effect of police residence on a city of 400,000 residents and many businesses, because even if they lived here, those cops wouldn't be spending much of their income here anyway.

The cops I've asked about why they live in San Leandro, Hayward, San Ramon, etc. rarely mention death threats. No, they give the exact same reason I've heard for almost forty years from young families who move out of Oakland when their kids reach school age, especially when they have more than one kid. Other than a few exceptions — the hills elementary schools, a few hills middle schools, Chinatown elementary schools, a few charter schools, Montera Middle School, Oakland Technical High School, and Skyline High School — the public schools are mediocre to bad compared to the 'burbs and adjacent cities.

Cops tend to have families with more than one kid. They can't afford to live in a decent Oakland neighborhood and pay for private school for multiple kids. That takes more than the excessive wages we do pay them.

The solution is not trying to force or even "incentivize" cops to live here. We need to lower the compensation for new cops so we can afford to increase the number of cops from the official 600 or so to about the 1,100 level that activists like Charlie Pine have advocated for for many years. Do that by implementing a two-tier compensation system so we can afford to hire and keep the young cops we'll be paying to go through the scheduled two academies, instead of laying them off before they start like we did last time.

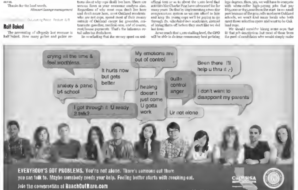
As we reach that 1,100 staffing level, the OPD will be able to do true community beat policing where the cops are assigned mostly to the same beats for several years. The community gets to know the assigned cops and the cops get to know the residents. That means fewer mistakes by cops who have no idea who the bad guys are, and more trust by the good gals and guys.

Under the absurdly low staffing we have now, we have maybe 500 cops available to staff all shifts, and probably fewer than 250 on duty at any given time for a city of 400,000 residents and 56 square miles of land. Cops are rushed from one corner of the city to another responding to emergencies. They have no chance to get to know residents or for residents to get to know them.

We can achieve most of what we want by increasing the affordable number of cops. Yes, we have to properly manage them and have civilians monitor them. But that's a whole other topic.

As to recruiting locally: Residence is not important, but growing up here should increase street-sense and awareness, depending on the person. To put it bluntly, we have to lower our hiring standards. We have to consider what we want from our cops. If we expect them all to be combination paralegals/family-conflict mediators/paramedics/Olympic athletes/bouncers/able to write reports with at least two-year college degrees, then, yes, we will have to compete with white-collar high-paying jobs that pay $85,000 or $95,000 from the start. In no small part because of the generally mediocre Oakland schools, we won't find many locals who both meet those selection specs and want to be Oakland cops.

We should consider hiring some cops that fit that job description, but most of them from the pool of candidates who would simply make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good beat officers in the old-fashioned, pre-lawsuit way. No college would be a place to start. Have a paraprofessional transcribe the reports.

If the Oakland police union won't go along with those changes, the city council has to put the repeal of binding arbitration on the ballot and break its cowardly promise to the union not to do so.

Len Raphael
Candidate for Oakland City Council District 1

It's a Cycle

The authors of this article imply that the hostile relationship between some elements of the Oakland community and the Oakland Police Department is partly rooted in the police force's lack of familiarity with high-crime neighborhoods. To the contrary, I would suggest that the distrust of police officers is a direct byproduct of their familiarity with these neighborhoods. Anybody who frequently witnesses the results of the unspeakable acts of violence that occur in Oakland's worst neighborhoods (such as the death of a child hit by a stray bullet, which happened recently) is bound to develop a rational fear of some of the people in that neighborhood.

Eric Tremont, Albany

The Trouble with "Tranny"

Alona: While I appreciate Kate Bornstein seemingly has no problem with the term "tranny," many transwomen and some transmen do find it to be a highly offensive, stigmatizing term. Really, it has no place in a serious review, nor is it a term that non trans persons should throw around either to show "solidarity" or hipness. If you really want to view yourself as being a trans ally who respects your trans readers, I suggest leaving "tranny" as an inter-community term that trans women and gender-variant drag queens can use on a person-to-person basis.

Gina Klesseller, San Francisco

Worth Emphasizing

I think it is worth emphasizing that cows or no cows, the elk herd will ultimately outgrow the range at Point Reyes. It's also worth noting that the ranches at Point Reyes were there before the park, are part of the heritage of the area and supply high-quality dairy products for much of Northern California.

Dave Wade, Fulton

Tule Elk Are the Tip of the Iceberg

Great article by Robert Gammon on the attack on elk by ranchers at Point Reyes. However, as much as Dianne Feinstein is to blame for aiding the ranchers, ranching on the western US is a huge and longstanding problem, and the Point Reyes elk issue is, unfortunately, but a tiny example.

Only a few of us hard-core conservationists know this, but ranching has done more ecological damage to the western US than any other industry. The worst of the damage, in a nutshell, is that what used to be our western grasslands has been turned into deserts. For the most part, there were no large grazing ungulates in the west before the arrival of Europeans and their domestic cattle and sheep. Elk and deer are browsers, meaning that they primarily eat leaves and higher-growing vegetation. They are also nowhere near as heavy as cattle, which means that cattle cause major harm from unnatural soil compaction (this is also caused by cattle staying in one place instead of constantly moving around as any natural ungulate would). Bison were mostly present east of the Rocky Mountains, with only a few tiny herds making it west of there. The introduction of non-native cattle and sheep have wreaked major havoc on the ecosystems of the west by grazing on grasses that did not evolve to be able to survive that grazing. (I don't want to get too technical here, but the native grasses in the west have horizontal roots, and when grazed by large animals like cattle and sheep, those roots are completely pulled out. The grasses in the eastern US have vertical roots and can handle grazing because the roots remain under the ground after an animal eats the grass, which is the main reason bison were able to graze those grasses for millennia without doing any ecological harm.)

Other harms caused by the grazing industry include fencing (which inhibits movement of wildlife and people, and ruins views), poisoning of creeks and streams by cattle excretions to the point where it is now unsafe to drink from any natural waterway, killing of native plants that cattle don't like and animals that ranchers deem competitors or threats to their cattle or sheep (the latter of which is just about every large species, including elk; ranchers are now the main reason that wolves are still being shot and they are obstructing the attempts at reintroducing wolves into western states, including here in California), soil compaction from cattle mentioned above, erosion of the banks of streams and creeks from cattle hanging out there (in nature, prey animals would not hang around waterways for fear of predators — they get their water and leave immediately, but ranchers kill all the predators where their cattle graze, even on our public lands), just to name a few harms off the top of my head. Two excellent books on these issues are *Sacred Cows at the Public Trough* by Daniel and Nancy Ferguson and *Welfare Ranching* by George Wuerthner.

Additionally, as Gammon notes, ranchers using public lands graze their animals at a steep discount compared to those leasing private lands. This has long been an issue that we have tried to address in Congress, but to no avail. The ranching industry is heavily supported by Congress due mainly to the "heroic cowboy" image, which of course couldn't be further from the truth. Dianne Feinstein is merely acting as the vast majority, if not all, of her colleagues act on that issue: Defend the ranchers at all costs, including the cost to the natural environment and native species.

Anyone who cares about this issue should start by boycotting beef and telling both the ranchers and their congressional representatives why he or she is doing so. Demand that all cattle grazing be removed from our public lands and those lands restored to their native, natural condition, including reintroduction of predators like wolves. I realize that Americans love their steaks and hamburgers, but the ecological price of these foods is far too high, including the great harms caused to native species like elk. Giving up beef is one of the best things people could do for the ecosystems and species of the west, including the tule elk of Point Reyes.

Jeff Hoffman, Berkeley

Why We Elected You

Ms. Feinstein, if Point Reyes is to be a true national park above and below water, then the oyster farms (which I love) and, definitely, the dairy cattle ranches need to go! Killing native species such as tule elk in a federally protected area makes no sense. Haven't we decimated their range enough? Get your head out of the orifice of your special interest groups and take the moral high ground: that's why I elected you!

Randy Monroe, Concord

A One-Two Punch

John Logan got it right. Prop 32 is the second of the one-two punch to emasculate labor unions' political power and to further empower anonymous big money Super PACs that were made possible by the disgusting *Citizens United* decision of the Bush appointee-dominated Supreme Court.

Unions do not apply political pressure anonymously or indirectly. They support candidates and causes with direct contributions. If unable to do this, they are essentially banned from the political process now dominated by the conservative Super PACs.

Vote no on Prop 32.

Don Link
Candidate for Oakland City Council District 1

So-Called Left-Wing Media

So the *Express* advocates a federal government takeover of policing in Oakland. Would that be the US military, which polices the world with drones and bombs and torture no matter whether Republicans or Democrats are in office? Lots of other police departments and cities are hard up, and we hear about one outrageous "rogue" racist cop incident after another. Will those departments be taken over also?

Pretty soon we might have just one federal police force for the country, like a KGB or a gestapo. Homeland Security is already giving police departments military tasks.

Your article points out that the problems could stem from cops not living in Oakland and not having a stake in the city. But where would a federal police force come from? Are you not defeating your own argument? Is it really so impossible to get to the bottom of this corruption on a local level? Somebody has to be responsible. Or is this the corporate solution that is wanted by the rich and powerful?

I used to wonder how fascism could take over a country. It takes an emotional public and a compliant media — and that goes for so-called "left wing media" too.

Vivian Warkentin, Berkeley

Corrections

The caption in our 8/22 Culture Spy "The Hidden World of Design" incorrectly stated that Roman Mars raised $170,000 in 24 hours; he actually raised $42,000 in one day. ●

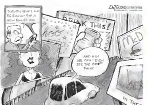
Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

OAKLAND'S LATEST MESS

Allegations made by City Administrator Deanna Santana against OPD monitor Robert Warshaw have threatened the integrity of police oversight.

By Robert Gammon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The troubling saga of the Oakland Police Department took an ugly turn last week with the news that City Administrator **Deanna Santana** has accused **Robert Warshaw**, the independent court monitor for overseeing OPD, of making inappropriate advances toward her earlier this year. The revelation has already threatened the integrity of the oversight process of OPD and could delay a decision on whether the department should be put in federal receivership. In short, it's a big mess.

A report by *The San Francisco Chronicle*, quoting anonymous sources, was the first to report that Santana had made the explosive allegations against Warshaw. *The Oakland Tribune*, also citing anonymous sources, then confirmed the *Chron*'s story. Sources also confirmed to the *Express* that both the *Chron* and *Trib* stories were accurate.

The Oakland City Attorney's Office said that it has launched an investigation into Santana's complaint. And attorneys **John Burris** and **Jim Chanin**, who are also involved in monitoring OPD, are now demanding an investigation into who leaked Santana's allegations to the press. They note that the timing of the allegations is suspicious because Warshaw and his team are also close to releasing new progress reports on the department, and so far he has been highly critical of OPD and its failure to implement the reforms it agreed to make.

Santana's allegations, meanwhile, may never be provable because sources say that the alleged incidents occurred in private, and that no one else witnessed them, according to the city administrator. Moreover, there's no evidence at this point that Warshaw has made inappropriate advances to any other public officials in Oakland during his tenure monitoring OPD. In other words, this may become a messy she-said-he-said.

Unfortunately, because of the circumstances, there's also reason to doubt what both Santana and Warshaw have said and will say. Warshaw's reputation and career, after all, are on the line. And Santana's career and reputation would take a hit if, under her watch, OPD were to become the first police department in the nation placed in federal receivership.

Some City Hall insiders and observers suspect that the Oakland police union was the first to leak Santana's allegations. The union, after all, has long resisted the consent-decree reforms, and casting a shadow over Warshaw's reputation could delay a decision about receivership by US District Court **Thelton Henderson**.

It should be noted, however, that it was a mistake by the Oakland City Attorney's Office that appears to have been partially responsible for the leak. Last Friday, the City Attorney's Office filed a public declaration with Henderson, announcing that it was launching an investigation into allegations about the court monitor and city officials and that it planned to file future updates about the incident under seal to keep it private. By Monday, the City Attorney's Office realized that it should have just filed the original declaration under seal — as it is allowed to do.

However, it should be noted that these types of allegations tend to become public eventually. And so the City Attorney's Office's mistake, while unfortunate, may have just precipitated an earlier disclosure of Santana's allegations than would have otherwise occurred.

Regardless, the fact that they are public now is extremely problematic for the police oversight process. If Warshaw produces any more monitoring reports that are critical of OPD, Police Chief **Howard Jordan**, or Santana, then some people are going to doubt their veracity. Is Warshaw merely being critical because Santana spurned him? Or because she lied about him? Similarly, if he says OPD has made lots of progress with its reforms, people may wonder whether he's trying to diffuse the situation.

Unfortunately, the only way to minimize such doubts may be for Judge Henderson to publicly order Warshaw to not have any more contact with Santana. That shouldn't be too much of a problem — the court monitoring team includes a half-dozen other members. Warshaw, from here on out, should also take a more limited role in writing the monitor reports.

Clearly, if Warshaw did not do what Santana contends, or if she misunderstood his actions, then forcing him to take a lesser role is unfair — as is the damage already inflicted on his reputation. But at this point, having him step back may be the only way to save the integrity of the process.

Billboards Mishandled

Earlier this summer, the Oakland City Council quietly green-lighted five new billboards to be erected near the foot of the Bay Bridge, including two to three giant LED billboards that will light up the night sky. The council approved the billboards as part of the massive Oakland Army Base development project. The large signs will help finance the expensive project and are expected to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars a year for a proposed job-training center in West Oakland.

Councilmembers, however, mishandled the billboard approval process because they did not adequately inform residents about the new signs and they should have offered them more of an opportunity to comment on them.

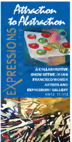
Based on past experience, the council knows full well that billboards stir lots of controversy in Oakland. Opponents of billboards contend that they blight the city, and many people especially don't like the bright LED signs. In fact, there was a considerable backlash when the council approved the first LED billboard in Oakland last decade, near the same spot — a billboard of which some of the proceeds benefit **Jerry Brown**'s Oakland School of the Arts.

Because of the past controversy, the council and city administration should have made a greater effort to get the word out about the new billboards before they voted on the Army Base project in June. That way, both billboard opponents and proponents of the planned job-training center could have had sufficient opportunity to express their thoughts — and would have had ample opportunity to convince councilmembers to see their points of view.

Instead, some billboard critics now believe that they were hoodwinked — that the council purposely kept the billboard deal quiet, buried among the hundreds of pages of documents related to the extremely complex Army Base project, in the hope that no one would notice. That belief may or may not be true, but in reality, it doesn't matter because by not giving the billboard deal a full and fair hearing, the council and city administration have further undermined the public's trust. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com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ECO WATCH

HIGH-SPEED RAIL IS DEFINITELY GREEN

A recent UC Berkeley study shows that an efficient high-speed rail network in California will reduce pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions

By Alex Pongle

Opponents of high-speed rail contend that it's a boondoggle because of its $68 billion pricetag. But a recent UC Berkeley study provides evidence that a California bullet train might be a good investment, particularly when it comes to reducing greenhouse gases and fighting climate change.

The study, published recently in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, was the result of two years of research by UC Berkeley civil and environmental engineering professor Arpad Horvath and Mikhail Chester, professor at Arizona State University's School of Sustainable Engineering and The Built Environment. The study analyzed the environmental sustainability of a high-speed rail network compared to flying and driving. The authors concluded that the high speed rail system, when it's completed, will consume less energy and emit fewer greenhouse gases and less pollution than autos or planes, even after accounting for future improvements in auto and airplane fuel efficiency and cleaner, greener technology.

"We're not only looking at greenhouse gases, we're also considering things like the potential for smog formation as well as human health respiratory effects," Chester said in an interview. "What we've found is that high-speed rail would be a cleaner mode."

According to the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, California's population will exceed 50 million people by 2040. That's 16 million more people than it has today, potentially resulting in billions more car trips and traffic jams — and the resultant smog and greenhouse-gas emissions.

Jon Cost/Flickr (CC)

In Germany, high-speed rail is part of a unified, interconnected transportation system.

The researchers conducted what they called a "life-cycle assessment" of travel by automobile, airplane, and high-speed rail. The report factored in the production and use of steel, concrete, and asphalt in the construction of roadways, vehicles, and high-speed rail stations, as well as the nearly eight hundred miles of high speed rail track. The report determined that after all the dust settles in about twenty years, high-speed rail will have a lighter environmental footprint than its rivals — although how much lighter it will be depends on numerous factors.

According to Chester, it's too early in the planning stage to come up with any hard and fast numbers. He says the report shows there will be a slight environmental benefit. While several competing proposals are on the table for what the system will look like once it's completed, high-speed rail promises to be more environmentally friendly in several ways. Cars and planes, for example, run on fossil fuels, which emit greenhouse gases and other pollutants. The extraction and refining process also emits pollutants. High-speed trains, however, run on electricity, which produces no greenhouse gases at the point of use. Pollutants become an issue for high-speed rail at the power plants generating the electricity. The plants may burn fossil fuels. However, the study's authors note that the number of renewable energy plants, which produce no greenhouse gases, will continue to grow in California as the high-speed rail system is built. Hydroelectric power produces the bulk of the electricity for the Swiss High-Speed Rail network.

In 2008, voters approved $10 billion in bonds to pay for the start-up costs of high-speed rail. Since then, the proposed project has had numerous setbacks that have threatened to derail it. The price tag also has ballooned to at least $68 billion. Republican state Senator Doug LaMalfa, whose district includes Redding, Oroville, and other parts of Northern California, has been one of the leading critics of the system and its projected cost overruns. "Costs for high-speed rail will continue to rise even as public support plummets," LaMalfa said in a statement. "California doesn't have the money for this project."

One of the ways the UC Berkeley study measures the environmental impact of travel by car, airplane, and high-speed rail is by determining the level of emissions produced per passenger per vehicle kilometers traveled. Cars have the biggest footprint. A 2009 Federal Highway Administration report showed that there were about 380 billion annual vehicles per kilometer traveled in California, and this number is forecast to increase to 480 billion by 2040 absent a high-speed rail system. That's another one hundred billion car trips in the state in the next thirty years, spewing out another one hundred billion trips' worth of tailpipe emissions.

The UC Berkeley report's findings indicate that efficiently planned high-speed rail gets people to their destinations with fewer emissions than driving. If the proposed high-speed train is occupied by 80 to 180 passengers on average over its lifetime, the report stated, it would result in the equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions per passenger-kilometer traveled produced by a 35-mpg sedan carrying 2.2 people. The US Department of Energy estimates that the average vehicle in America carries 1.59 passengers per vehicle on average at any given time.

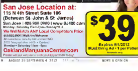
The new study's findings track closely with research commissioned in 2009 by seven of Europe's leading high-speed rail systems. "Generally, what you tend to see around the rest of the world is a similar pattern where high-speed rail does have a lower environmental footprint than the automobile or aircraft," Chester said.

Otero, an independent London-based consultancy, found that CO2 emissions for high-speed rail per passenger per kilometer traveled are three times lower than automobile travel, and that gap is expected to double by mid-century. Airplane CO2 emissions per passenger per kilometer traveled are four times higher than high-speed rail. The estimates account for future improvements in car and airplane engine design and construction materials. The Otero report also showed that in 2006, short-haul flights burned nine times as much CO2 per passenger per kilometer traveled than high-speed rail did.

The UC Berkeley report adds an environmental arrow to the quiver of project supporters, many of who have been pressing Governor Jerry Brown (a big high-speed rail supporter) and the High Speed Rail Authority to ensure that the system be cost efficient and environmentally friendly. Earlier this summer, Brown and the Democrat-controlled legislature approved $5 billion in funding to launch high-speed rail. "It is no secret that there remain outstanding questions about management of the project and its costs," said Annie Notthoff, California Advocacy Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "We will continue working with the Brown administration to address these issues to ensure that the project meets its environmental promise without taking any shortcuts."

The report's authors say that the high-speed rail network must also be an attractive alternative to the roadways and the airports if it is to have the kind of environmental benefits they envision. To get some perspective, the researchers went to Europe and Japan, where high-speed rail networks have been operating successfully for decades. Chester consulted officials at Deutsche Bahn, Germany's high-speed rail system. They told him that European planners view high-speed rail systems as part of a unified, interconnected transportation system — not as a separate and competing transportation mode. For example, a traveler from an outlying province in Germany can use high-speed rail to connect to a flight from a big city airport. The airlines even help passengers with these arrangements. Another part of the holistic German approach is that airlines refer travelers whose flights have been cancelled to high-speed rail. "That's an important view that California, I think, may choose to adopt," Chester said. "Basically you have to think about things like the trains pulling into airports, pulling into city centers instead of stopping ten miles outside of Fresno, for example. You have to make sure there are urban infill policies around the system." ■

Editor@EastBayExpress.com



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LEGALIZATION NATION

THE BATTLE FOR LOS ANGELES

The LA City council sics the DEA on pot clubs, as operators counter-attack the new dispensary ban

By David Downs

The region that gave the world Dr. Dre's *The Chronic* is moving to get tough on said chronic, but whether the moves are just more Drug War theater remains unclear. On Wednesday, August 29, the Los Angeles City Council will hear a motion to divert city funds to the prosecution of medical marijuana collective operators. Presented by Councilman Ed P. Reyes, the motion to pay for more weed prosecutions follows an unprecedented city council motion approved on August 22 instructing the Los Angeles Police Department to "work with the Federal government, the Drug Enforcement Agency [DEA] and the District Attorney to create a citywide enforcement strategy to deal with medical marijuana collectives."

Just what does that ominous phrase "to deal with" mean? Well, in July, the city voted to ban all medical marijuana collectives operating in retail storefronts. Scheduled to take effect by September 6, the pot shop ban could affect an estimated 750 stores in the city of 3.8 million people. But not so fast.

On August 22, attorneys for Patient Care Alliance Los Angeles sued the city over the ban, asking for an immediate injunction and saying that the ban violated the California constitution and collective operators' due process rights. Activists in Los Angeles have also collected about 27,000 signatures in a petition to put the pot-shop ban up for a public vote, said a large LA dispensary manager who we'll call "Jack," because he requested we not use his name or the name of his collective due to the enforcement actions. Referendum organizers are betting that Los Angelenos will strike down the ban at the ballot box, Jack said.

The ban doesn't pass the smell test with many pot shop owners, either, Jack said. History shows the city has proved incompetent in its attempts to both regulate its clubs and close them all down. The US Drug Enforcement Administration ordered all clubs closed in 2004, and then they came back.

Los Angeles tried to regulate its clubs once in 2010, passing an ordinance limiting dispensary permits to one hundred businesses. Numerous lawsuits, however, were filed against the ordinance, and a state appellate court ruled that aspects of it were illegal.

Some LA shop owners have said publicly that they won't close, pointing to voter-approved Prop 215 and California law SB 420 as legal cover for operating a collective in a retail space. "It's not like we're doing anything illegal," Jack said. "It's discriminatory."

Operators presume the cash-strapped city also lacks the funds and the time to investigate, ticket, raid, jail, prosecute, and imprison every store owner, let alone the limitless supply of true believers and Green Rush wannabes who'll step up to meet demand when their peers catch a case. "Mainly, everybody is just kind of waiting to see what happens," Jack said. "A lot of people are calling [the city's] bluff."

Ordering police to strategize with DEA agents and beefing up ranks of prosecuting attorneys clearly signals that the city council is ready to double down on its ban. It sets up the biggest medical cannabis city in the world as a battleground over the issue of storefront dispensaries — just in time for the election. "It's definitely an escalation of pressure and it's really unfortunate," wrote Don Duncan, a leader of Americans for Safe Access in Los Angeles, in an email.

"Both motions seem aimed at increasing the city's capacity to enforce the ban," Duncan said in a July interview. "Both motions also send a message to patients operating cooperatives and collectives that the city is gearing up to enforce the ban. The City Council may be reacting to media reports indicating that the 'voluntary' ban the LAPD said they anticipated is unlikely. Aggressive enforcement in L.A., which seems more likely now, sends a bad message to other jurisdictions."

Angelenos clearly want city-permitted and regulated dispensaries, Duncan said. Some unregulated clubs in the area break state as well as federal law, police investigations have found. Without any planning department oversight, the new businesses draw neighborhood nuisance complaints for traffic and loitering, and security can be too lax, leading to robberies. Moreover, "the city doesn't think they're getting any money — there's so many that aren't paying their taxes," said LA operator Jack, who would prefer to see the city pursue tax enforcement against scofflaws.

Access to medical cannabis — which can treat nausea, pain, stress, and inflammation, and stimulate appetite — is likely to remain easy in the LA basin as the new legal battle moves forward. Aside from bold storefront operators, fleets of quasi-clandestine delivery collectives still serve the area. The surrounding Los Angeles County has seen its collective ban struck down in court. Hundreds of medical marijuana options also exist in neighboring cities like West Hollywood and Venice Beach.

Could an LA ban be a boon to neighboring canna-businesses? Not necessarily. Duncan sits on the board of directors of a West Hollywood dispensary and said neighboring clubs would struggle to cope with a flood of refugee patient demand. "We're not prepared to absorb that," Duncan wrote.

Seeds & Stems

Our pot book author panel and signing event "Home Grown Author Night" on July 11 was such a hit that we're bringing it back. On Saturday, October 13, at Oaksterdam University in downtown Oakland, we will host "Home Grown Author Night #2," this time featuring Doug Fine, author of the 2012 book *Too High To Fail*, Clint Werner, author of the 2011 title *Marijuana: Gateway to Health*, and Martin Lee, author of the 2012 book *Smoke Signals*, plus special guests and refreshments. Doors open at 5 p.m. Free to the public. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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The last time workers shut down the port was in 1971.

Jay Galvin/Flickr (CC)

NEWS

IS A PORT STRIKE LOOMING?

Workers contend that's it's unfair for the Port of Oakland to demand more concessions at a time when the agency enjoys a financial surplus

By Darwin BondGraham

Al Loera remembers the last strike at the Port of Oakland. In the 1960s, Oakland was among the first seaports anywhere to containerize trans-ocean shipments, bringing the giant cranes now synonymous with the city's skyline. Container technology — the changes it demanded of labor and the increased productivity and wealth workers would create using it — was a source of conflict between the port and its unions. In 1971 the ILWU went on strike for one hundred days, an action that was ended only by a federal injunction under the Taft Hartley Act.

Loera was hired two years later at Oakland International Airport, a fast-growing division of the port. By 1978 he was the president of the Service Employees International Union's airport chapter, Local 790, a post he holds to this day as leader of SEIU 1021's port chapter. There were various ups and downs for Loera and his co-workers over the years, but he recalls the last decade as mostly a steady march of progress. Between 1999 and 2009, his union was able to consistently improve its contract with the port, as worker productivity and port revenues grew.

The last four years have been perhaps the roughest though. "Our unit is down about 120 people since 2009," Loera said in an interview. "We've had to agree to layoffs and furloughs because of the bad state of the economy."

Port management and SEIU both anticipated that the Great Recession would significantly impact the port's bottom line. So workers shared the burden. In 2008 and 2009, the port's revenues dipped as imports and exports of various goods declined, and the airport saw fewer passengers.

However, by early 2010 the port's revenues rebounded. The general economic downturn has ended up being just a brief slowdown for the overall growth and health of the port's business. The weak dollar — combined with Oakland's leading position as an export hub — and other factors have made the port somewhat resistant to the general economic crisis.

Nevertheless, now that contracts between the SEIU and three other unions representing port workers have expired, management is asking for major concessions, including an increased 5 percent employee contribution to their pension plans and no cost-of-living increase in wages. It amounts to about a 10 percent pay cut, says SEIU.

Based on the port's actual financial health, the workers are pushing back, however, asking for their existing contract plus a 5 percent pay increase to keep up with inflation. After a year of fruitless negotiation, the workers and port management have reached an impasse. SEIU's members voted down the port's most recent takeaway offer by a resounding 177 to 3.

The dispute is now in mediation, one of the last stages before a possible strike. That would mean a picket line of SEIU and other workers — a line that the Teamsters and the International Longshore Workers and Warehouse Union have already vowed not to cross. A full shutdown of the port led by workers hasn't been seen in 41 years.

"If this were a legitimate fiscal problem for the port, if it were in fact losing revenues because of the economic downturn, we would entertain making more sacrifices for the port," said Loera. "In fact, our members have already shared the burden from a few years ago. But the port isn't in a financial crunch right now."

In that way, the port's demand for more worker concessions is unusual. Typically, public agencies have demanded employee givebacks when the agencies were in financial trouble. "When our union has made concessions with other employers it's because they have demonstrated need and we have been reasonable to share the burden," said Ulysses Madison, regional director of SEIU 1021 during the public comment period of a recent port board meeting. "That's not the case here. You have had positive growth even during the recession."

The other unions fighting concessions in their contract negotiations with the port, including the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers and the Western Council of Engineers, have also taken cuts already because of the port's slowdown in 2008. "We lost 25 percent of our unit since 2008 and have agreed to furloughs, and full PERS contributions for new hires," said Nancy Watson, executive director of the Western Council of Engineers.

Reports in the business press as early as 2010 described the Port of Oakland's fast recovery as "spectacular" and "remarkable." A *Business Monitor International* article from August 2010 captioned one graph illustrating the port's rebound in cargo shipments with the words "strong as an oak," and noted that after single-digit contractions in 2008 and 2009 there was a 13 percent increase in throughput. Revenues for the port's maritime, airport, and real estate operations have since increased and are trending positive, growth each year.

Even so, the port's financial managers say they can't extend the workers' existing contract, and that concessions are required. In the port's most recent annual financial report, port Chief Financial Officer Sara Lee, a former Goldman Sachs vice president, blamed "weak economic conditions nationally and globally" as the reason to expect "flat to modest growth in activity and revenues in the near future."

To communicate this message to the media and the public, the port has hired Sam Singer, a public relations professional who runs the San Francisco-based Singer & Associates firm. "From a macro perspective, the port, like many businesses and many families, was severely impacted by economic downturn and recession," Singer said. "The port has tightened its belt and is asking its union members to do the same to ensure the economic health of the port and to avoid future layoffs."

The unions and port managers have produced competing analyses of the port's finances and while they generally agree on the same numbers drawn from the port's most recent financial documents, management has taken a much more conservative view of what operating surpluses and increased revenues mean.

In a July 12 presentation to the port's board, Nicholas Feraino, a researcher with the SEIU, walked commissioners through the union's interpretation of the facts. "While the port claims concessions are needed due to supposedly flat revenues and long-term liabilities, the actual performance of the port over recent years tells a different story." Feraino pointed to large operating income surpluses of about $37 million and $51 million in 2010 and 2011, and then drew the commissioners' attention to a key figure, the port's debt service ratio. This ratio represents the overall available cash on hand to service outstanding loan obligations. A debt service ratio of 1 means there is exactly enough income on a yearly basis to make all outstanding debt payments, but nothing left over for new investments or as insurance. Today, most banks and corporations aim for a ratio around 1.25 to 1.35.

"Your budgeted debt service ratio was 1.31," Feraino pointed out, "but the port already started this year with an actual ratio of 1.47 and it will likely be over 1.5 at the end of the 2012 year."

The port's management contends that workers are misinterpreting the financials. "SEIU did not take into account capital expenditures, debt service, and other expenses that the port needs to pay for, including improvement of assets for life safety and regulatory requirements," said Gilda Gonzales, president of the Port Commission, at a recent meeting. "Times have changed. Given the flat outlook for the economy and port revenues, we must ask employees to invest in their pensions."

Feraino was disappointed in management's response. "The port has already set aside money for upcoming debt payments — it's budgeted," he explained. "You can easily afford to provide the cost of living increase for your workers. It's not like we're asking you to spend all the surplus on us. There would still be plenty of money left over for you to invest in capital improvements."

"AFTER OUR RESEARCH SHOWED THEY HAD A RAPIDLY GROWING SURPLUS, THEY SHIFTED TO SAY THAT WE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE OF SURPLUS, AND CLAIMED THE SURPLUS REALLY WENT TO DEBT SERVICE ...."

Steve Gilbert, a member of SEIU's bargaining team, has become exasperated by the port's continued position. "After our research showed they had a rapidly growing surplus, they shifted to say that we didn't understand the issue of surplus, and claimed the surplus really went to debt service and capital expenditures," said Gilbert. "So we asked that they put their numbers into a document."

What Gilbert and the union got seems to confirm their point, showing that the port can afford to give workers the same contract plus a cost-of-living increase, and still have enough money left over to invest in capital projects, while keeping a healthy debt service ratio. The port's managers, however, seem intent on freeing up as much money as possible over the next five to ten years in order to take on more debt for capital expenditures, including real estate and maritime projects.

"Working people are fed up with the idea that the economic crisis we did not cause, that it's our responsibility to clean up this mess by taking pay cuts," Gilbert told the port's board earlier this month. "At the point when we have these surpluses, that the port would try to use this general crisis as an excuse to take away from our members is regrettable. If the management attempts to impose this on us, we will close this port." ●

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ALAMEDA
County Transportation
Commission

Measure B Sales Tax Activities

CWC members performed a number of activities to ensure appropriate use of transportation sales tax funds improve reporting processes and update funding agreements between Alameda CTC and fund recipients

In November 2000 Alameda County voters approved Measure B which extended the county s half-cent transportation sales tax to 2022 and set forth a 20-year Expenditure Plan Measure B also established a Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) to review all Measure B expenditures on projects programs and administration for compliance with the Expenditure Plan and timely project delivery The CWC reports its findings annually to the public This 10th annual report covers expenditures during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 (FY10-11) and CWC activities since July 1 2010 The CWC report states that audited income and expenditures were in compliance with specific caps and the auditors did not identify any accounting concerns

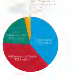
Citizens Watchdog Committee Activities

- **Ongoing Programs and Capital Projects Watch (On going)** The CWC continued to watch specific programs and capital projects and to review any issues of concern
- **Independent Audits (November 2010 January 2012)** The CWC met with and received presentations from independent auditors on expenditures and administrative caps The auditors did not identify any accounting concerns
- **Review of Local Agency Expenditures (November 2010 March 2012)** The CWC formed subcommittees to address fund balances of the cities of Fremont and Oakland and Alameda County Each agency provided explanations and plans for spending down fund balances which the CWC will continue to monitor
- **Audit and Compliance Report Review (January 2011 January 2012)** CWC members reviewed audits and compliance reports and requested more information from agencies and jurisdictions to help clarify expenditures The CWC found no indication that funds were spent improperly
- **Master Programs Funding Agreement Review (November 2011)** A subcommittee reviewed and provided input on the Alameda CTC s new Master Programs Funding Agreement for Alameda County local jurisdictions and transit agencies which receive Measure B and Vehicle Registration Fee funds
- **Information Received by CWC (On going)** The CWC received updates on a new $7.8 billion transportation Expenditure Plan that will go to voters in November 2012 and requires an independent Watchdog Committee similar to the CWC as well as on local business contract goal achievement success

Summary of Expenditures

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is responsible for administering the Measure B half-cent transportation sales tax measure as well as congestion management agency functions. In fiscal year 2010-2011 (FY10-11) Measure B revenues totaled $105.4 million Alameda CTC audited expenditures of $140.8 million in FY10-11 were distributed as shown on this chart

FY10-11 Audited Expenditures



How to Get Involved

In addition to the CWC the public serves on the **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** the **Citizens Advisory Committee** and the **Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee** To learn more visit www.AlamedaCTC.org and follow us on

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The opera *Einstein on the Beach, An Opera in Four Acts*, featuring choreography by Lucinda Childs, plays at Cal Performances.

FALL ARTS

KEEPING TIME

This dance season ranges from historic companies to avant-garde artists

By Claudia Bauer

The East Bay is home to dance-world luminaries, world-leading innovators and world-class venues. An especially rich season is about to get under way, with unique opportunities to see historic companies in big halls, experience avant-garde creativity up close and meet the legends who live around the block. So limber up and leap in.

The Berkeley Historical Society

Honoring the riches in our midst, the Berkeley Historical Society hosts two events on regional dance history at the Hillside Club (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley). Photographer and historian Margaretta Mitchell leads a presentation on the **Temple of Wings** (Sept. 16), a Greek Revival structure in the foothills that served as the epicenter of Isadora Duncan-style dance for decades. Afterward, Duncan specialist **Lois Flood** will perform Duncan dances. Dance critic and Mills College professor **Ann Murphy** leads longtime Bay Area dancers in a **panel discussion** on early modern dance in California (Sept. 23). The panelists include two favorite local personalities: **Judy Job**, who started dancing here in the 1930s, and **Frank Shawl**, who left a Broadway and television career to cofound Berkeley's Shawl-Anderson Dance Center in 1958. Admission to both events is free, and refreshments follow. 510-848-0181 or BerkeleyHistoricalSociety.org.

Cal Performances

During the third annual **Fall Free for All** (Sept. 30), an open house on the UC Berkeley campus, wander among the venues to see dozens of artists including Chitresh Das Dance Company, Gamelan Sekar Jaya, Lily Cai Dance Company and San Francisco Taiko. The event draws about 10,000 people, so arrive early. Boasting twice as many events as last year, the official Zellerbach Hall (Bancroft Ave. below Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) season begins in spectacular style with the **Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra** — still commonly referred to by its Soviet name, the Kirov, and arguably the world's finest classical ballet company — in the full-length *Swan Lake* (Oct. 10-14). **Mark Morris Dance Group** rings in the holidays with *The Hard Nut* (Dec. 14-23), an irreverent twist on *The Nutcracker* that entails drunken swingers' disco, a drag-queen housekeeper and copious amounts of confetti snow.

The **Joffrey Ballet** brings three pieces, including Kurt Jooss' legendary 1932 antiwar protest piece, *The Green Table* (Jan. 26-27), followed by its cross-town cohort **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** in a trio of works, including a collaboration with San Francisco's Alonzo King (Feb. 1-2). **Trisha Brown Dance Company**, led by the legendary postmodern choreographer, performs new and revived works (Mar. 15). **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** (Apr. 23-28) returns under new Artistic Director Robert Battle, who is already taking the company in exciting new directions. The season wraps up with the West Coast premiere of *Rodin*, a dance-drama by Russia's theatrical high-concept **Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg** (May 10-11).

Though not part of the dance series, three additional events will be of interest to dance fans. Modernists will want to catch *Einstein on the Beach, An Opera in Four Acts* (Oct. 26-28) for the choreography that **Lucinda Childs** developed as cocreator of this opera with Philip Glass and Robert Wilson. The World Stage series presents Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca (Feb. 8), a flamenco company from Madrid. And **Mark Morris Dance Group** performs as part of the Ojai North! Festival (mid-June), for which Morris is serving as musical director. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org.

Contemporary & Experimental Dance

Shawl-Anderson Dance Center (2704 Alcatraz Ave., Berkeley) is both host and subject of *Move Here* (Oct. 19-20 & 27-28).

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Fog Beast will make its choreographic debut at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center — Dana a Ganley

The show marks the choreographic debut of **Fog Beast**, a collaboration between **Andrew Ward** and **Melecio Estrella**, who dance with the Joe Goode Performance Group and Project Bandaloop, with video media artist Jona Brundel. Part of Shawl-Anderson's Dance Up Close/East Bay program, this "movement in context" is both a contemporary dance performance and an immersive journey through the physical and spiritual spaces of the studio.

The Bay Area's longest running performance series, **Works in the Works** (Nov. 10-11 & 17-18) invites about two dozen artists to present works in progress at Eighth Street Studio (2525 Eighth St., Berkeley) then discuss their performance with viewers. This season's lineup was not available by press time but previous years have been moderated by Joan Lazarus, Mo Miner and Nina Haft and featured Dana Lawton Dances, Ruth Botchan Dance Company, Project Tremble, and many more, in a different roster each night.

See **Megan Nicely**, **Rowena Ritchie**, **Violet Juno**, **Milka Djordjevich** and other contemporary and experimental dancers when contemporary dance-theater artist Mary Armentrout hosts one of her Milkfur salons (Nov. 9) at her performance space at the old Sunshine Biscuit Factory (81st Ave. near San Leandro Ave., Oakland). She's got work of her own to show as well. **Mary Armentrout Dance Company**'s full-length *reveries and elegies* will start at the Biscuit Factory and move to a different Bay Area venue for one weekend per month (Nov. 2012-Feb. 2013). An exploration of the fragmentary, ever-changing nature of life, *reveries* will lose and gain pieces of itself as it moves. MaryArmentroutDanceTheater.com

Beyond Ballet

Hot off its celebratory tenth-anniversary season, Walnut Creek's **Company C Contemporary Ballet** launches its second decade with one world premiere after another. Artistic Director Charles Anderson cultivates a diverse repertoire of intelligent, athletic and even humorous dance, and the 2013 winter (Jan. 17-19) and spring (May 9-10) programs at the Lesher Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek) feature commissions from Yuri Zhukov, Brian Reeder, Patrick Corbin, David Van Ligon, and Anderson. 925-943-SHOW (7469) or CompanyCBallet.org

Intimate, entertaining, and informative, **Diablo Ballet**'s Inside the Dancer's Studio series returns to the *Shadelands Arts Center* Auditorium (111 N. Wiget Ln., Walnut Creek). True to its signature mix of classical and contemporary dance, the versatile troupe performs the West Coast premiere of Trey McIntyre's *The Blue Boy* as well as works by George Balanchine, ODC's KT Nelson, and company members Robert Dekkers and David Fonnegra (Mar. 1-2 & May 3-4). Moderated discussion and refreshments follow. 925-943-1775 or DiabloBallet.org

Holiday Dance

In addition to *The Hard Nut* (see Cal Performances above), there's plenty of homegrown merriment to enjoy. **Diablo Ballet** sets the mood with its first holiday extravaganza (Nov. 16-17) at the Lesher Center; the show includes the Latin flair of *Lento a Tempo e Appassionato* by choreographer Vicente Nebrada of Ballet Nacional de Caracas, and the world premiere of *A Swingin' Holiday*, set to live big-band tunes from the 1930s and '40s. 925-943-1775 or DiabloBallet.org. The Lesher Center is also home to **Contra Costa Ballet School**'s *The Story of the Nutcracker* (Nov. 29-Dec. 1). Created for the short-attention-span set, it tells the tale in under one hour, complete with musical highlights, the famous dance sequences, and lavish costumes. 925-943-SHOW (7469) or ContraCostaBallet.org. **Oakland Ballet Company** wraps up the festivities with the waltzing snowballs, dancing peppermints, and other enchantments of Graham Lustig's *The Nutcracker* (Dec. 22-24), a full-scale production accompanied by a live orchestra and performed in the glorious Paramount Theatre (2025 Broadway, Oakland). 800-745-3000 or OaklandBallet.org.

Visit artist and venue web sites for times, ticket prices, and complete details. And stay tuned — there's much more to come this season. ●

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From the Barry McGee exhibit: Craig Costello's "Roseville Trainyards." Courtesy of the artist

FALL ARTS

SHADOWS AND DREAMS

With exhibitions exploring everything from food to late-Seventies rock albums the local art scene offers plenty to see this fall season

By Alex Bigman

The potency of the East Bay's visual arts scene is palpable these days. The monthly Art Murmur centered around Telegraph and 23rd, however, gives only a very partial picture. While the Art Murmur circuit of galleries is rock solid, a variety of other spaces around the area — museums, studio spaces and various models of gallery including a newcomer to Temescal — are enlivening our calendar this fall. Here are a few of the must-sees coming up.

Museums

California's Central Valley has long been a point of paradox. The state owes much of its economic comfort (what's left of it, that is) to this land of agricultural plenty, and yet the texture of life here, hard and poor, stands in direct opposition to the state's projected image of easygoing glamour. In ***Valley of Shadows and Dreams***, the first exhibition in a three-part series exploring California life through photography at the **Oakland Museum of California** (1000 Oak St., Oakland), Ken and Melanie Light bring their camera and pen (respectively) deep into the culture of this singular locale. Through December 31. See it, then come back in January for *Suburban Dreams*. 510-318-8400 or MuseumCA.org.

As Barry McGee's distinctive brand of graffiti art drew exposure in the early Nineties, so his role as piquant culture critic came to light. Speaking through his signature cast of homely, down-and-out characters blasted onto paint-splattered walls, McGee articulated troubling realities about the often over-stimulated, under-compassionate nature of inner-city life. His work has since been featured at the Venice Biennale, launching him onto the global stage. Now the artist enters a local institution for his first ever mid-career survey, bringing unmistakable taggers and a re-creation of a street-corner bodega, among other things, into the museum. McGee has never been one for institutional boundaries, and this exhibition, though a first of its kind, ought to be no exception. ***Barry McGee*** runs through December 9 at the **Berkeley Art Museum** (2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 510-642-0808 or BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Karen Kilimnik first captured international attention with her painterly explorations of celebrity and pop culture, which, bold in color and uniquely awkward in execution, set the artist apart from her contemporaries. Now, **Mills College Art Museum** (5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland) presents an exhibition exploring another of Kilimnik's rich, longstanding fascinations: 18th- and 19th-century ballet and theater. The artist has returned to the theme in paint, collage, photography, video and, more recently, costume design and choreography. Consisting of more than thirty works spanning these media, ***Dance Rehearsal: Karen Kilimnik's World of Ballet and Theatre*** documents one of the more compelling contributions to narrative figuration of the past thirty years. From September 12 through December 9. 510-430-2164 or MCAM.Mills.edu.

Studios

At more than 8,000 square feet of studio space, **The Compound Gallery and Studios** (1167 65th St., Oakland) is home base to more than a dozen artists, and a resource to many more. This September, the gallery space will present an interdisciplinary group show celebrating the recent work of its artists, and at the September 1 opening, visitors will have the opportunity to tour more than twenty studios and receive demonstrations in letterpress, printmaking, and ceramics. Make sure to return in November for a solo exhibition of work by Jeanne Larese, featuring an impressive installation in paint that merges late-Seventies rock albums and Kabbalistic mysticism — surely a propitious pairing.

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From the Ken and Melanie Light exhibit, *Valley of Shadows and Dreams* at the Oakland Museum of California

Compound Group Show 2012 runs September 1-31. ***Jeanne Lorenz*** runs from November 10 through December 16 at The Compound Gallery and Studios. 510-601-1702 or TheCompoundGallery.com

Kala Art Institute's (1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley) outstanding exhibition of work by its 2012 residency fellows, ***Residency Projects***, will close on September 15. If you have not yet stepped in to see Vanessa Marsh's post-apocalyptic photograms and Francesca Pastine's stock market gauge tribal masks (to name two of many successful projects), make a point to do so. Come October, the institute will present ***Keeping Time*** (Oct. 4-Nov. 24), an exhibition culled from a local and national call for entries that explore the various modes of tracking time. Then, close out 2012 with Kala's annual exhibition of fresh work from its more than one hundred fellows, artists in residence, and staff. ***Fresh Work*** runs December 13 through February 2013. 510-549-2977 or Kala.org.

Galleries

This September and November, **Pro Arts** (150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland) independently curated programming takes the form of the ***2 x 2 Solos*** series, two exhibitions each divided into two solo shows. In the first (Sept. 4-Oct. 6), Amy M. Ho constructs whole-room installations that envelop visitors in projected light and shapes, while Lordy Rodriguez, in his solo debut, presents a series of reconfigured or imagined cartography inspired by 2011's devastating earthquake and tsunami in the Pacific. In the second (Oct. 30-Nov. 30), Cybele Lyle continues to investigate constructed space and subjectivity through various forms of personal documentation, while Wafaa Yasin explores memory, politics, and the body through various site-specific performances portraying tasks from everyday life. 510-763-4361 or ProArtsGallery.org

In naming her new Temescal gallery, artist and academic Suzanne L'Heureux appropriated a tech term, interface. As an instrument that mediates experience, she thought, an interface makes a good metaphor for art itself. For the gallery's inaugural exhibition, ***in ter face*** (Sept. 5-30), six artists present work exploring this concept of art, mediation, and communication. In November, Interface hosts an exhibition in conjunction with the organization Food Shift identifying connections between food waste and hunger, with some artists actually intercepting food byproducts from nearby restaurants for innovative use. This promises to be a mediation of a refreshingly bold, direct type. ***Food Shift*** runs November 3 through December 2 at **Interface Gallery** (486 49th St., Oakland). InterfaceArtGallery.com

"Beauty" is about as weighty and malleable a word as they come, befits the traditional museum as an exhibition subject. "Cuteness," not so much. Yet, these are precisely the things that Kathy Aoki aims to celebrate when she curates ***Beauty in Landscape: A Blockbuster Exhibition from the Permanent Collection of the Museum of Historical Makeovers***, an institution that exists in the artist's mind and soon, **Swarm Gallery** (560 2nd St., Oakland). Brazenly tongue-in-cheek, the showing of faux historical prints, painting, and sculpture is not to be missed. In the project room, Camille Newhagen will present a video of the artist communicating with various objects in the mode of the wireless age. Runs October 6 through November 11. 510-839-2787 or SwarmGallery.com

Rounding out **Traywick Contemporary**'s (895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley) yearlong fifteenth anniversary series, ***Wall Works 4*** and ***Materials + Process*** each focus on a different aspect of the North Berkeley space's program: history and potential future. Through sculpture and site-specific collage, the artists in *Wall Works 4* explore the constraints and possibilities of Traywick's exhibition space. The five artists in *Materials + Process*, then, will highlight the gallery program's emphasis on nontraditional methods and media through photographs — some of them avowedly "failed" — sculpture, drawing, and collage. Then it's onward to 2013. *Wall Works 4* runs through September 29; *Materials + Process* runs October 14 through December 22. 510-527-1214 or Traywick.com ■

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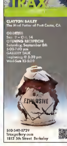

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FALL ARTS

ELECTION YEAR ORAMA

This fall, the politics outside inform the productions onstage.

By Rachel Swan

In many ways, this year's election is even more of a nail biter than the one four years ago, with both sides pouring buckets of money into increasingly mean-spirited campaign ads, and "undecided" voters vacillating week by week, depending on the latest scandal. Even local theater companies are weighing in, making political gamesmanship the theme for their fall season. Shotgun Players Artistic Director Patrick Dooley said they really had no choice — he and other artists have been wringing their hands and tearing their hair out, watching both parties battle for a thin margin of error. "I feel the country is more polarized than it's been in my lifetime," Dooley said. "Four years ago there was all this 'hope and change' stuff — now we've got two and a half months to go. How much worse can it get?"

Much worse, perhaps. Or much "better," depending on your vantage point. After all, many theater directors have decided to treat the election as an artistic muse. **Shotgun Players** was apparently the most inspired of any East Bay company, rounding off its fall calendar with Stephen Sondheim's 1990 musical ***Assassins*** (Sept. 26-Oct. 28), a campy revue starring the fourteen people who attempted to assassinate presidents of the United States (most of them unsuccessfully). The play is no hagiography, Dooley assured, but it does get into the psychology of each character and attempts to explain his or her motivations. The theater company will top off the run with an election night party at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley), complete with pizza and a large-screen TV so that everyone can watch the drama unfold.

Shotgun's two Berkeley peers, **Aurora Theatre** and **Berkeley Repertory Theatre**, weren't as overtly topical, but they still imported the leitmotifs of politics and war into their fall openers. Aurora will kick off its season with ***The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*** (through September 30), a drama by young Chicago playwright Kristoffer Diaz about the world of pro-wrestling. Told from the perspective of a mid-level Puerto Rican fighter named Macedonio "The Mace" Guerra, it's a play populated by heroes and villains, battling in contests that are all predetermined. Local director Jon Tracy will helm the production, which will mostly take place in a giant wrestling ring with big screens along the walls. Not for nothing does the protagonist's last name mean "war."

Berkeley Rep, meanwhile, will launch its fall season this week with David Henry Hwang's ***Chinglish*** (through Oct. 7), a play that doesn't resonate with election year politics per se, but does seem uncannily prescient of current news events on the other side of the globe. Rep spokesman Terence Keane said the Gu Kailai scandal in China, in which the wife of a recently deposed politician confessed to murdering a British businessman, bears "scary similarities" to *Chinglish* — with the exception that in Hwang's play, nobody dies. Rather, it focuses on the perils of trying to communicate across cultures, particularly from a foreign policy context.

David Allen

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity is populated by heroes and villains.

The play that follows, ***An Iliad*** (Oct. 12-Nov. 11), is political in a more general sense, in that it's largely about combat and loyalty. Many of us know the story of the Trojan War from reading *The Children's Homer* in middle school — in this version, Keane said, Homer is a grizzled old barfly who's compelled to tell the tale over and over again, and make it relevant to a contemporary audience. Directed by Obie Award winner Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare (who played the vampire king on HBO's *True Blood*), the play will combine a simple presentation with vibrant, profuse soliloquies. Despite its bloody backstory, this *Iliad* purports to have dovish underpinnings. It might offer a reprieve from the political world outside.

As the season continues, it will veer from the political to the personal, with Aurora producing a program of four short plays by Berkeley High alumnus Thornton Wilder, ***Wilder Times*** (Nov. 2-Dec. 9), staged by founding Artistic Director Barbara Oliver. The Rep will mount Mary Zimmerman's version of a Chinese folk tale as its holiday play, ***The White Snake*** (Nov. 9-Dec. 23), incorporating romance with magical realism. Shotgun Players will take the social issues motif in a more darkly psychological direction with ***Woyzeck*** (Nov. 29-Jan. 13), Georg Buchner's play about a soldier traumatized by the military chain of command and the execrable conditions of poverty. But they'll do the Tom Waits version, which should be lighter and more irreverent than the original — not to mention that Mark Jackson will direct it.

All told, we're gearing up for a juicy season, and one that won't shy away from the issues of the day — part of art's value is to digest its social context, after all. "This year there's no way to avoid that," Dooley said. "People are not going to be thinking theater," he warned, in a tone that seemed more matter-of-fact than dispirited. He and the other company members at Shotgun had already resigned themselves to the current political mood, and Dooley said they'll respond with gusto. "Just embrace it," he said. "Go with it." ●

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FALL ARTS

HIGH ART IS PARAMOUNT

The East Bay is a hotbed for jazz and classical music

By Rachel Swan

When the renovated Fox Theater opened in 2009 to much fanfare, there were concerns about the effect the concert venue would have on its similarly sized, slightly mustier neighbor **The Paramount Theatre.** But a cursory glance at the theater's programming this fall reveals that it's having no problem booking high-profile acts of its own — including Anthony Hamilton and Nicki Minaj. This year, as always, it will host the **Oakland East Bay Symphony** under the direction of Michael Morgan, who will unveil an all-inclusive mix of timely commissions and old standards. It will also present Brazilian singer **Gilberto Gil** in conjunction with the SFJAZZ festival. Though the art deco venue was built as a movie house rather than a concert hall, Morgan said that sound engineers have tweaked it to accommodate 65 musicians plowing through a Handel concerto. He's excited for the coming season, which will be as illustrative of Oakland's community as its venue is of the city's history.

Like everyone else, Morgan is fixated on election year politics, and he's decided to launch Oakland East Bay Symphony's fall season accordingly. This year's opener — called "**Celebrating Democracy**" (Nov 9) — will feature works exclusively by American composers. They'll include selections from Leonard Bernstein's musical *West Side Story*, a clarinet concerto by Aaron Copland, and Adolphus Hailstork's piece *An American Fanfare*. He'll also sweeten the pot with two pieces by local composers — a world premiere of Gordon Getty's *Homework Suite* and *Episodes for Orchestra* by retired UC Berkeley professor Olly Wilson. "All we'll be thinking about that week is American history and politics," Morgan said, echoing the concerns of some of his counterparts in the theater world. Like them, he contends that the election need not supersede art — rather, artists should treat it as a muse.

In fact, a keen social awareness informs the bulk of Oakland East Bay Symphony's programming for the 2012-13 season. The orchestra's holiday concert, called "**Let's Break Bread Together**" (Dec 9) has a long history of combining music from different religious traditions. This year it will feature music from the Oakland Symphony Chorus, Piedmont Choirs, the Mt. Eden High School Choir, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, and the klezmer band Kugelplex. Morgan said he's always wanted to be inclusive, rather than book a program of Christmas carols or spirituals. He's worked with the choirs for a number of years, always making an effort to balance contemporary pop and R&B styles with more traditional gospel — a dynamic he maintained even during a sing-along performance of Handel's *Messiah* a few years ago which featured classical coloratura singers alongside an *American Idol* finalist. Kugelplex is his most recent addition, and it's added an Eastern European element that was hitherto lacking, Morgan said. The band will accompany folk singer Joan Baez.

Kugelplex will perform as part of the Oakland East Bay Symphony and SFJAZZ's fall seasons.

Naturally, diverse programming and a multicultural sensibility is all but incumbent on any artistic director who wants to court a diverse East Bay audience. **SFJAZZ,** which features some of the best, most stylistically adventurous, intergenerational lineups in the country, chose to feature two worldish artists for its Oakland concerts: hot young star Esperanza Spalding — who played the Paramount last Saturday — and her older male analogue, Gil, who will perform there on October 25. On the whole, the organization has tried to spotlight local musicians wherever possible, particularly in its series of free concerts at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. It will include sets by **Nice Guy Trio** (Sept 6), **Kugelplex** (Sept 13), **Jesus Diaz Y Su QBA** (Sept. 13), **Marcus Shelby Orchestra** (Sept. 15), and **Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers** (Nov 10).

And we'd be remiss not to mention **Cal Performances,** which has two orchestral residencies this November: the **Philharmonia Orchestra** (Nov. 9-11) and the **Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela** (Nov 28-30). Both will host open rehearsals and pre-concert talks for ticket holders in an attempt to provide a more well-rounded pedagogical experience. Other notable music highlights include a special October 28 performance of the (gulp) five-hour Philip Glass opera ***Einstein on the Beach***, a jazz concert by the **Delfeayo Marsalis Octet** (Oct. 16), **Chucho Valdés & the Afro-Cuban Messengers** (Nov 7), and African singer **Angélique Kidjo** (Nov 17).

Of course, Berkeley has the advantage of being a university town, which will always make it a focal point for classical music and other highbrow arts. But Oakland is quickly catching up. Morgan has conducted the city's venerable symphony for 23 years now, but he's getting steadily more adventurous with programming — the spring calendar will feature a special **Middle East presentation** (Apr 20) with Israeli-American guest conductor Daniel Wachs, and a commission from Palestinian composer Nader Abbassi. That's part of an annual series highlighting the music of a specific region of the world, in an attempt to engage new audiences, Morgan said. In a way, it also helps ground the orchestra in its hometown. "This area is so diverse, we'll never run out [of cultures to feature]," he said. "So we can engage a whole new audience with whatever program that is." ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

A GUIDE TO THE 2012-13 CULTURAL CALENDAR

ART GALLERIES

2 x 2 Solos. Amy M. Ho Solo exhibition of new work. Juried by Zachary Royer Scholz. Artists' reception on Friday, Sept. 7, 6-8 p.m. Sept. 4-Oct. 6. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

2 x 2 Solos: Sylvia Lyle Solo exhibition of new work. Juried by Jacqueline Clay. Oct. 30-Nov. 30. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

2 x 2 Solos: Lordy Rodriguez Solo exhibition of new work, curated by Eric Murphy. Artists' reception on Friday, Sept. 7, 6-8 p.m. Sept. 4-Oct. 6. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

2 x 2 Solos. [illegible] Solo exhibition of new work, curated by Lauren Schell [illegible]. Oct. 30-Nov. 30. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

Art for $99 This benefit for the gallery features small and affordable works by local artists. Opening reception on Saturday, Dec. 8, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 8-23. Interface Gallery, 486 49th St., Oakland. InterfaceGallery.com.

[illegible] Annual Solo exhibition. Opening reception on Saturday, Oct. 6, 6-9 p.m. Closing tea and artist talk on Sunday, Nov. 4, 3-5 p.m. Oct. 6-Nov. 4. The Compound Gallery & Studios, 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-601-1707, TheCompoundGallery.com.

Beauty in Landscape Stunning works in the gallery curated by [illegible]. Oct. 6-Nov. 11. Swarm Studios + Gallery, 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787, SwarmGallery.com.

[illegible] Perspective With old and new work by the Bay Area artist. Sept. 1-Jan. 6, free-$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000, SFMOMA.org.

Box Art Benefit Oakland [illegible] an annual exhibition. Berkeley original works made and [illegible] artists [illegible] distributed by Pro Arts [illegible] with The [illegible] People [illegible] Oct. 20 [illegible] Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

Box Art Benefit Annual Exhibition Oct. 16-19. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

Camille [illegible] A vision of the artist communicating with various objects in the [illegible] of the wireless age. Oct. 6-Nov. 11. Swarm Studios + Gallery, 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787, SwarmGallery.com.

Final Renditions With work by [illegible] and artists [illegible] including Stan Allen, Studio Francisco, and Sol LeWitt. Sept. 1-Jan. 7, free-$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco, 415-357-4000, SFMOMA.org.

Food Stuff Works by [illegible], Cynthia Hooper, Kathleen [illegible], Chris Sheridan, and Angel Von Style explore the [illegible] of food waste and food systems. Opening reception on Friday, Nov. 2, 6-9 p.m. Nov. 2-Dec. 2. Interface Gallery, 486 49th St., Oakland. InterfaceGallery.com.

Fresh Work Kala's [illegible] presentation of fresh work [illegible] exhibition of Kala's artistic community including fellows, artists-in-residence, [illegible] and staff. Dec. 13-Feb. 1. Kala Art Institute Gallery, 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000, Kala.org.

Hard Water Stains Featuring artwork by Cianna Valley and Jack Cram. Sept. 7-Oct. 20, free. Studio Quercus, 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-452-4670, StudioQuercus.com.

Inter[illegible] The gallery's inaugural exhibition [illegible] the concept of interface in [illegible] ways with works by [illegible], Helga [illegible], [illegible], Trevor Paglen, and Kelly [illegible]. Sept. 5-30. Interface Gallery, 486 49th St., Oakland. InterfaceGallery.com.

[illegible] Berkeley, in the project room. Nov. 17-Dec. 23. Swarm Studios + Gallery, 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787, SwarmGallery.com.

Annual [illegible] Solo exhibition. Opening reception on Saturday, Nov. 10, 6-9 p.m. Closing tea and artist talk on Sunday, Dec. 16, 3-5 p.m. Nov. 10-Dec. 16. The Compound Gallery & Studios, 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-601-1707, TheCompoundGallery.com.

Juried Annual 2013 Pro Arts' various juried exhibition of the best new work in the Bay Area. Dec. 7-Jan. 12. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

Kala Residency Projects With works by Michele Carlson, Randy Colosky, Allison [illegible], Seth [illegible], Vanessa Marsh, [illegible], Francesca Pastine, Lauren Rice, and Gail Wight. Through Sept. 15. Kala Art Institute Gallery, 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000, Kala.org.

[illegible] Exhibition explores [illegible] modes of [illegible] in a wide array of media and processes. Oct. 4-Nov. 24. Kala Art Institute Gallery, 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000, Kala.org.

[illegible] [illegible] highlight the gallery program's emphasis on non-traditional methods and [illegible] through photographs — some of them avowedly "faked" — sculpture, drawing and collage. Oct. 14-Dec. 22. Traywick Contemporary, 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214, Traywick.com.

Off the Wall With [illegible] by [illegible]. Sept. 7-Nov. 4. [illegible] Art, 3801 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-428-9889, InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

Playing with Fire: Artists of the California Studio Glass Movement With 22 works by California glass artists including artists [illegible] and Mary White. Oct. 28-Mar. 24, $6-$12. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Saturday Stroll A weekly community [illegible] Art Murmur but with fewer [illegible] and more focus on the [illegible]. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating Oakland galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Uptown District, 25th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Six Lines of Flight: Shifting Geographies in Contemporary Art Featuring work by artists from six burgeoning contemporary-art centers: Beirut, Lebanon; Cali, Colombia; Cluj, Romania; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; San Francisco, United States; and Tangier, Morocco. Sept. 15-Dec. 31, free-$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000, SFMOMA.org.

[illegible] Annual Showing work in the gallery. Nov. 17-Dec. 23. Swarm Studios + Gallery, 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787, SwarmGallery.com.

Wall [illegible] A group exhibition featuring site-specific [illegible] by [illegible], and Nancy [illegible]. Through Sept. 29. Traywick Contemporary, 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214, Traywick.com.

Wild and Free This exhibition, featuring paintings by Mary Ann Kluth, [illegible], Clare Szydlowski, works from [illegible] drawings and [illegible]; and [illegible] paintings and drawings by exhibition [illegible] explores the way [illegible]. Opening reception on Friday, Oct. 5, 6-9 p.m. Oct. 5-28. Interface Gallery, 486 49th St., Oakland. InterfaceGallery.com.

MUSEUMS

The 1968 Exhibit A multimedia exhibition reviewing the events of 1968, a turning point for a generation coming of age and a nation at war. Through Nov. 25. Museum admission. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

[illegible] Studies The Museum [illegible] exhibition of [illegible] work. Nov. 30-Jan. 13, free. Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893, BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Barry McGee The first midcareer survey of the prolific San Francisco-based street artist, featuring early spray-can paintings, his signature painted liquor bottles, op-art painted panels, anamorphic [illegible], a re-creation of a street-corner bodega, and more. Through Dec. 9. Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collection. Daily. [illegible] Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000, SFMOMA.org.

California Mosaic Artists: [illegible] An ongoing group show [illegible] Institute of Mosaic Art, 3801 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-428-9889, InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

[illegible] Prints and Processes Featuring prints and photographs. Through Dec. 16, free-$10. de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco. 415-750-3600, DeYoungMuseum.org.

Cindy Sherman With work by the [illegible] photographer. Featuring various [illegible] talks and film screenings, check website for full schedule of events. Through Oct. 8, free-$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000, SFMOMA.org.

[illegible] / MATRIX 243 [illegible] artist [illegible] series of drawings of seventy [illegible] film stills from John Carpenter's Halloween explores the "darkest end of [illegible]." Through Oct. 7, $7-$10. Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Dance Rehearsal: Karen Kilimnik's World of [illegible] The exhibition features 35 multimedia works from 1998 to the present. Sept. 12-Dec. 9. Mills College Art Museum, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-3340, MCAM.Mills.edu.

[illegible] Jewels, [illegible]: African Jewelry and Photography from the [illegible] Collection Presenting a collection of North African art of the 19th and 20th centuries, selected by [illegible]. Through Jan. 13, free-$10. Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-358-7200, MOADSF.org.

Forgotten [illegible] Street-corner Lives: Días de los Muertos 2012 The museum's eighteenth annual Día de los Muertos exhibition of altars, [illegible] and website [illegible], curated by Eduardo Pineda. Oct. 10-Dec. 9, free-$12. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

From the [illegible] From the permanent collection, a [illegible] of works from China, Egypt, and Peru [illegible] Daily. Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, 103 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648, HearstMuseum.Berkeley.edu.

Gallery of California Art With more than 800 works and the [illegible] exhibition. Through Dec. 2. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Himalayan Pilgrimage: Traveling in the Land of Snows Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

In a New Light These works from the museum's collection represent an introduction to the major cultures of Asia. Daily. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500, AsianArt.org.

Jasper Johns: Seeing with the Mind's Eye With more than eighty works in various media by the famed neo-Dadaist. Nov. 3-Feb. 3, free-$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000, SFMOMA.org.

Jay DeFeo: A Retrospective With [illegible] drawings, paintings, photographs, small sculptures, and jewelry by the seminal Bay Area artist. Nov. 3-Feb. 3, free-$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000, SFMOMA.org.

Ken and [illegible] Light: Valley of Shadows and Dreams With photographs exploring California's Central Valley and highlighting the experiences of farm workers and their families. Through Dec. 30. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

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Luis Herrera / MATRIX 242 Featuring [illegible] a thirty seven series of works incorporating a collection of Vietnamese photographs found in a Berkeley [illegible]. Through Dec. 1. Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Matisse and Magnus: The Painting and Sculpture Collection Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by [illegible] Mondrian, Alexi, Rauschenberg, [illegible] Diebenkorn et al. Daily. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

[illegible] Jewish History 101: The Art [illegible] With work inspired by and reflective of [illegible] life in various media and by [illegible] artists. Through Jan. 13, 2013. Free. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Native California Cultures This "visible [illegible]" exhibition comprises some 500 [illegible] from the museum's collection of [illegible] California cultures. Daily. Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, 103 Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.Berkeley.edu.

Film Work: Alessandro [illegible] Featuring work by the writer and sculptor. Sept. 28–Feb. 10. Free–$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

Nisei Soldiers Experience Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the [illegible] (second-generation Japanese-American) troops who fought for the US in [illegible]. Daily. USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org.

The Oakland-Berkeley Fire Aftermath Photographs by Richard Misrach. Through [illegible]. Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Oakland-Fukuoka Artist Exchange: [illegible] of [illegible] Featuring work [illegible] in collaboration between artists in Oakland and Fukuoka, Japan. Through Sept. 30. Free. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Out of Treasures: Decoding [illegible] Featuring new and contemporary work. With various special events; see website for schedule. Thru Jan. 13. Free–$12. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

[illegible] Modernity: The Photography Collection From the museum's vast holdings, photos by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Stieglitz et al. Daily. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

Projections Multimedia works from the museum's [illegible] collection of [illegible] documentary and experimental films. Daily. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: Frequency and Volume With work in various media by the Mexican artist. Nov. 3–Feb. 3. Free–$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

Tinker, Break A hands-on [illegible] for kids that provides safe access to arts, media and technology. Daily. Children's Creativity Museum, 221 4th St., San Francisco. 415-820-3320. Creativity.org.

Museum Artists: From The European Jewish Cultural Renaissance [illegible] With post-Holocaust pieces from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. Through Dec. 16. Free. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

[illegible] Game The ongoing [illegible] of Rube Goldberg's [illegible] *The Big [illegible]*. Daily. [illegible] Children's Museum, 2009 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. [illegible].org.

[illegible] Sense of Apartheid and After [illegible] Featuring documentary photographs of the turbulent era. Dec. 1–Mar. 3. Free–$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

Stage Presence: Theatricality in Art and Media With works in various [illegible] — [illegible] the visual and performing arts. With [illegible] performances and [illegible]; see website for full schedule of events. Through Oct. 8. Free–$18. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

The [illegible] of Not My Father: Photographs by Danny Lyon With more than sixty photographs and photographic [illegible] dating from the early Sixties to present. Sept. 29–Jan. 21. Free–$10. de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. DeYoungMuseum.org.

Traits of Life A [illegible] of [illegible] and demonstrations exercising the fundamental [illegible] common to all living things. Daily. Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0360. Exploratorium.edu.

Treasures Featuring special [illegible] of the Lace Museum of Lace and Textiles. Sept. 22–Feb. 2. Lace Museum of Textiles, [illegible] St. [illegible] 510-841-7220. LaceMuseum.org.

Type/Graphics: Studying Hebrew Types in Film and Photography An "investigation of the use of reproducible images in ethnographic and documentary [illegible] of Jewishness, [illegible] 19th century to the present," featuring work by famous and lesser-known Jewish artists. Through Dec. 16. Free. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

[illegible]/Yesterday An interactive [illegible] and [illegible] showcasing [illegible] culture. Dec. 20–May 21. Free–$12. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

The Johnston S. Paley Collection: A Taste for Modernism Including work by Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and others. Sept. 15–Dec. 30. Free–$20. de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. DeYoungMuseum.org.

Recent Art: Pet Portraiture A celebration of pets in mosaic. Daily. Institute of Mosaic Art, 3008 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-436-5933. InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

Dan Savage curses at Zellerbach Hall on November 3. Christopher Stabile

ATTRACTIONS

National Circus of the People's Republic of China Including acrobatics, juggling, and much more. Sat., Sept. 15, 8 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 16, 3 p.m. $22–$62. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

Richmond Arts in Harmony Street Fair The East Bay Center for the Performing Arts and the City of Richmond present an arts festival with live music, performances, and games and food trucks. At Macdonald Ave. (between 10th and Harbour Way, Richmond). Sat., Sept. 15, 12–6 p.m. Free.

KIDS

Tell Me or The Fits of My Heart Family-friendly [illegible] show [illegible] physical comedy, stilt-walking, [illegible] and more, presented by the [illegible] Company. Sun., Dec. 9, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. $10–$20. [illegible] Auditorium, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-4200.

LECTURES

Andrew Solomon: "Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity" The author discusses his book about the consequences of [illegible] (physical and cultural) [illegible] parents and children. Part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters series. Thu., Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m. $6–$12. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

[illegible] Paglia: "Glittering Images: A Journey Through Art" The professor of Humanities and Media Studies at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia discusses her new book, which challenges how we conceive our visual environment in this high-tech age. Co-presented with Berkeley Arts & Letters. Wed., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] (BAM/PFA [illegible]) 2621 Durant Ave., Berkeley.

Dan Savage The [illegible] and [illegible] writer [illegible] his life and work. Sat., Nov. 3, 8 p.m. $10–$42. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

Fran Lebowitz The humorist [illegible] discusses her life and work. Thu., Nov. 15, 8 p.m. $20–$52. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

Geoffrey Nunberg: "Ascent of the A-Word: Assholism, The First Sixty Years" The adjunct full professor at UC Berkeley's School of Information discusses the [illegible] the word "asshole" as part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters series. Tue., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. $7–$12. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Hanna Rosin: "The End of Men and the Rise of Women" In conversation with [illegible] English, the senior editor at *The Atlantic Monthly* discusses her [illegible] about women's rise of status. Part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters series. Thu., Sept. 20, 7:30–9:30 p.m. $7–$12. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Paul Elie: Reinventing Bach The [illegible] of the Georgetown University Faith & Culture Lecture Series discusses the transformation of Bach's music [illegible], including [illegible]. Part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters series. Tue., [illegible], 7:30–9:30 p.m. $6–$12. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Richard Dawkins: "The Magic of Reality" The evolutionary biologist discusses his graphic science book for children and young adults. Part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters series. Thu., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

Tamim Ansary: "Games Without Rules: The Often-Interrupted History of Afghanistan" The Afghan American author discusses his book about the long, eternal struggle in the Middle Eastern country that the Western world has never fully understood. Part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters series. Thu., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. $6–$12. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Lunch Poems Kick-Off Hosted by Robert Hass and University Librarian Thomas C. Leonard, the kick-off event for the Lunch Poems series features faculty and staff reading their favorite poems. Thu., Sept. 6, 12:10 p.m. Morrison Library, 101 Doe Library, Berkeley. 510-642-0137.

Lunch Poems: Richard [illegible] Thu., Dec. 6, 12:10 p.m. Morrison Library, 101 Doe Library, Berkeley. 510-642-0137.

Lunch Poems: Jorie Graham Thu., Nov. 1, 12:10 p.m. Morrison Library, 101 Doe Library, Berkeley. 510-642-0137.

Lunch Poems: Kathleen Fraser Thu., Oct. 4, 12:10 p.m. Morrison Library, 101 Doe Library, Berkeley. 510-642-0137.

Lyrics and Elegies Featuring a new slate of emerging writers every month. Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

The Reading Room An [illegible] of poetry and experimental [illegible] with a [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] to take home [illegible] from [illegible] of small East Bay presses. Through Dec. 9. Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Reading from his book *Blasphemy: New and Selected Stories* as part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters series. Wed., Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

Berkeley Poetry Festival Featuring readings by [illegible] and up-and-coming poets, as well as environmental [illegible]. Sat., Sept. 29, 12–4:30 p.m. Free. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5450. CityofBerkeley.info.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Aurora Script Club: The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe Led by [illegible] Mansfield. Mon., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. Free. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

FILM

[illegible] Cinema The PFA's annual experimental film series, presented in conjunction with the UC Berkeley course on avant-garde film taught by Jeffrey Skoller. [illegible] Call or visit website for specific dates and screenings. Sept. 5–Dec. 31. $5.50–$13.50. Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, PFA Theater, Berkeley. 510-642-1412. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

An American Werewolf in Paris With games and trivia [illegible] as part of the Paramount Movie Classics series. Fri., Sept. 7, 8 p.m. $5. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

An Army of Phantoms: American Cinema and The Cold War Featuring films such as *The Thing*, [illegible], *The Steel Helmet*, and *Fort Apache*. Thu. 5–21. $5.50–$9.50. Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, PFA Theater, Berkeley. 510-642-1412. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

The American [illegible] With games and trivia [illegible]. Presented as part of the Paramount Movie Classics series. Fri., Sept. 28, 8 p.m. $5. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

Grand Illusion: French Cinema Classics, 1928–1958 Featuring films including *[illegible]* and more. Sept. 14–Dec. 8. $5.50–$9.50. Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, PFA Theater, Berkeley. 510-642-1412. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Homegrown Presenting short films by local artists. Sept. 8, 8 p.m. Free. The Great Wall of Oakland, West Grand Ave. between Broadway and Valley St., Oakland. GreatWallOfOakland.org.

L.A. Rebellion: Creating a New Black Cinema With 35 films, ranging from the rare to the well-known, representative of the work of pioneering African and African American students at UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television in the 1970s. Sept. 8–Oct. 30. $5.50–$13.50. Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, PFA Theater, Berkeley. 510-642-1412. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Life is Short: Nikkatsu Cinema at 100 A film series covering nearly every Nikkatsu decade: a 1920 [illegible], a 1930s [illegible] melodramas and [illegible] youth-focused "sun tribe" [illegible] and [illegible]. Call or visit website for specific dates and screenings. Sept. 1–Oct. 27. $5.50–$13.50. Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, PFA Theater, Berkeley. 510-642-1412. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Oakland Underground Film Festival Film screenings of new independent films including [illegible] and more. [illegible] East Bay [illegible]. Visit website for more information. Sept. 21–30, [illegible] $10. OUFF.org. Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-452-3556. Renaissance-Rialto.com/current/grandlake.htm.

Rebel Without Applause: The Films of Alex Cox With films including *Straight to Hell*, [illegible] *Repo Man*, and [illegible] and the

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[illegible] Themed Costume Contest at [illegible]
[illegible]

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Saturday
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Garçons. Sept. 20-Oct. 7. $6.50-$9.50. Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, PFA Theater, Berkeley. 510-642-1412, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

A [illegible] New Yes With 35mm screenings of Mike Nichols' *The Graduate* (1967), [illegible] *The Battle of Algiers* (1966), [illegible] *Once Upon a Time in America*, and [illegible]. Sept. 8-Oct. 21. $6.50-$9.50. Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, PFA Theater, Berkeley. 510-642-1412, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

COMEDY

Out: La vs. BA with Karen Anzoategui Transnational queer tale of choosing between Buenos Aires and Los Angeles. Sun., Nov. 11, 8 p.m. $12-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

[illegible] Dream Theater stages the performance [illegible], on a story about an indigenous woman. Based, through [illegible] award-winning writer [illegible] work and adapted for the stage by Sal Paya and Aparna Sindhoor. Thu., Oct. 11, 8 p.m.; Fri., Oct. 12, 8 p.m. $20-$25. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Making Space A night of "ritual grrrls" and "the right of passage" by members of [illegible] Movement Company, [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 13, 8 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 14, 8 p.m. $12-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Story of the Nutcracker Contra Costa Ballet Company's hour-long version of the classic Christmas story about a girl and her nutcracker. Nov. 23-Dec. 1. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

Swan Lake Konstantin Sergeyev Theatre's adaptation of Tchaikovsky's famous ballet. Oct. 12-13, 8 p.m.; Oct. 13-14, 3 p.m.; $30-$90. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988, CalPerformances.org.

A Swingin' Holiday [illegible] world premiere performance by Broadway choreographer Sean Kelly [illegible] of Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, [illegible], and Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite*. Fri., Nov. 16, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 17, 2 & 8 p.m. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

[illegible] One-woman show about the [illegible], directed by [illegible], written by Lynne Kaufman, and starring [illegible]. Starting [illegible]. Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 28. $12-$30. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. [illegible], TheMarsh.org.

All My Sons Director [illegible] Arthur Miller's classic drama about a family's dark secret, and their fleeting hopes that [illegible]. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Sept. 29. $12-$15. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

Assassins Sondheim-penned musical about [illegible], directed by Susannah Martin. Starting Sep. 28. Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Oct. 28. $23-$30. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500, ShotgunPlayers.org.

Blithe Spirit [illegible] Noël Coward's play about a [illegible] who gets more than he bargained for when [illegible]. Produced by Cal Shakes and performed at an outdoor amphitheater. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 8 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 1, 2 p.m. Continues through Sept. 2. $20-$71. CalShakes.org. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

[illegible] Woodminster Summer Musicals [illegible] on the Theatre [illegible], directed by Joel Schlader. Starting Sep. 7. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 16. $27-$58. Joaquin Miller Park, 3300 Joaquin Miller Rd., Oakland. [illegible].

[illegible] Leigh Silverman directs the world premiere of [illegible] Henry Hewing's [illegible] about the [illegible]. Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 7. $14.50-$89. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

[illegible] One-woman show by the acclaimed avant-garde theater artist. Tue., Sept. 18, 8 p.m. $10-$80. Zellerbach Playhouse, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9988, CalPerformances.org.

Don Reed's The Kipling Hotel: True Misadventures of the Almost Hip Life Reed's one-man show presented [illegible] throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at [illegible] to his stint as a live-in worker at a [illegible] hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 14. $20-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. [illegible], TheMarsh.org.

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts Fall Gala With a three-course dinner from Chez Panisse and live performances from the Center's students. Thu., Nov. 1, 6-9:30 p.m. $250-$2,500. East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, 339 11th St., Richmond. 510-234-5624, EastBayCenter.org.

The [illegible] [illegible] directs [illegible] play about [illegible]. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. $32-$60. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

The Fisherman's Wife [illegible] directs Steve Yockey's nautical sex farce [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 29. [illegible]. Impact Theatre, La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

For the Greater Good, or The Last Election The San Francisco Mime Troupe presents an Occupy-themed performance about [illegible] the 19th century melodrama *The Poor of New York*. Thu., Aug. 30, 6:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Park, 3230 Macdonald Ave., Richmond. 510-231-3004, [illegible].

Hamlet Shakespeare's tale of treachery, madness, and murder, directed by Liesl Tommy. Starting Sep. 19. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.; Thu., Sept. 20, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 14. $40-$86. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Little Women, the Musical Jan Brown directs a musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel about [illegible]. Starting Nov. 2. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 2, 2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 8. $20. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

Lucky Stiff [illegible] directs a musical murder-mystery farce about an unassuming English shoe salesman forced to take the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle on a holiday to Monte Carlo. Starting Aug. 31. Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:30 & 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. $30-$47. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

Mummenschanz: Party Show A special holiday performance by the absurdist physical theater troupe. Fri., Nov. 23, 2 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 24, 2 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 25, 3 p.m. $22-$50. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988, CalPerformances.org.

Rhinoceros Théâtre de la Ville [illegible] Eugène Ionesco's absurdist masterpiece, directed by Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota. Thu., Sept. 27, 8 p.m.; Fri., Sept. 28, 8 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 29, 2 p.m. $30-$90. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988, CalPerformances.org.

[illegible] World-premiere musical about [illegible], directed by [illegible], and produced by Center REP. Starting Nov. [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8:15 p.m.; Sundays, 2:15 p.m. Continues through Nov. 18. $28-$35. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

The Underpants Political satire written by Steve Martin, directed by Michael Butler, and produced by Center REP. Starting Oct. 18. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 10. $39-$50. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

Tell It On Berkeley Storytelling, solo performance, and live music, with a [illegible] of performers. Last Sunday of every Month, 7 p.m. $8-$15. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. [illegible], TheMarsh.org.

Tod and [illegible] Josh Costello directs the world premiere of Lauren Gunderson's play, a Renaissance-themed riff on *Microsoft* about three nearly 30-year-olds who [illegible] take over a South American island inhabited by miniature [illegible]. Starting Nov. 8. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Nov. 23-24, 8 p.m.; Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 8 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 3, 8 p.m.; Dec. 6-8, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 17. [illegible]. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

Waiting on the Tipping Point A darkly comic look at climate change, presented by the [illegible] traveling [illegible]. Starting Sep. 6. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 28. [illegible] Theatre, 533 Sutter St., San Francisco. StageWerx.org.

The White Snake Tony award-winning director Mary Zimmerman [illegible] the world-premiere adaption of an ancient Chinese legend. Starting Nov. 13. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 28. $14.50-$89. [illegible] Theatre, 2071 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org/[illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] directs [illegible] short plays by [illegible] Thornton Wilder. Starting Nov. 2. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 9. [illegible]. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Woyzeck West Coast Premiere of the [illegible] adaptation of Georg Büchner's [illegible] tragedy, directed by Mark Jackson, with music and lyrics by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan. Starting Nov. 29. [illegible]. Continues through Jan. 13. $23-$35. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500, ShotgunPlayers.org.

MUSIC

BLUES, FOLK & COUNTRY

Berkeley Old Time Music Convention: Featuring workshops, square dances, concerts, panel discussions, and much more. Sept. 12-16, prices vary. Various locations in Berkeley, Berkeley.

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass: With Patti Smith, The Band of Heart, Dwight Yoakam, The Lumineers, and many others. Oct. 5-7, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Free. Golden Gate Park, 501 Stanyan St., 415-750-5105, SFGov.org/[illegible].

CLASSICAL & OPERA

[illegible] Plays Brahms: Part of the San Francisco Symphony's "Great Performers" series. Sept. 5-9, 2 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 21, 2 p.m. [illegible]. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

[illegible] Plays [illegible] [illegible]. Wed., Dec. 5, 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 7, 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 8, 8 p.m. [illegible]. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

[illegible] Performing strings compositions by [illegible]. Sat., Nov. 3, 8 p.m., [illegible]. Hertz Hall, UC

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pretty penny 9 fashion trends that you can wear into spring

1. skirts with light weight tights
2. sleeveless dresses with cardigans
3. boots (any season) spring boot [illegible]
4. hats (medium weight) with a side braid
5. oversized sweaters and jackets
6. hair styled in braids or pony tails
7. styles that you can layer
8. colors that are medium or jeweled tones
9. layered gold/silver jewelry

Pretty Penny Owner [illegible]

5 local designers + their 5 boosts up to coming trends for Fall

1 Field Day (Trinity Cross) www.fielddaywearables.com

2 Darkness And Dawn www.darknessanddawn.com

3 Angel Cake Jewelry www.etsy.com/shop/angelcake

4 Isobell Jewelry www.etsy.com/shop/isobell

5 Mary Weather www.facebook.com/lovemaryweather

www.prettypennyclothing.com 5488 College Avenue, Oakland (510) 594 9219

Berkeley. Berkeley. 510-642-9988.

The Capulets and the Montagues: New production of the Romeo and Juliet adaptation, with music by Vincenzo Bellini, book by Felice Romani and directed by Vincent Boussard. See website for showtimes. Sept. 29-Oct. 10. $27-$340. War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-3330. SFOpera.com.

Celebrating Democracy: Including performances of Adolphus Hailstork's An American Fanfare, [illegible] for Presidents, and more. Fri. Nov. 2, 8 p.m. $10-$80. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

Chris Botti with the San Francisco Symphony: The trumpeter, with [illegible]. Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. $36-$150. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

Community Women's Orchestra Family concerts: Sat. Nov. 3. $5-$15. Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-496-4783. LakeMerrittUMC.org.

Composer Concert: Esa-Pekka Salonen: Including performances as well as a conversation between the composer and Cal Performances' director Matías Tarnopolsky. Thu. Nov. 8, 8 p.m. $20-$40. Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988.

[illegible]: Presenting 14th-century traditional music. Sat. Nov. 3, 8 p.m., $48. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

Einstein on the Beach: An Opera in Four Acts: Well-known luminaries of theater/designer Robert Wilson's and composer Philip Glass's critically acclaimed avant-garde opera, which makes use of nontraditional instrumentation and plot. Fri., Oct. 26, 8 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 27, 8 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 28, 3 p.m. $35-$150. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988, CalPerformances.org.

Emanuel Ax: Performing Beethoven's sonata in A major, Op. 2, No. 2 and Sonata in C minor, Op. 13, as well as Schubert's sonata in B-flat major. Tue. Nov. 13, 8 p.m. $30-$75. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

Let Us Break Bread Together: A Holiday Celebration: Featuring performances by the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Oakland Symphony Chorus, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, and the Piedmont Choirs. Sun. Dec. 2, 4 p.m., $35-$58. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

Philharmonia Orchestra: Performing various works by Mahler, Beethoven, and Berlioz under the direction of Esa-Pekka Salonen. See website for full programs. Fri., Nov. 9, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 10, 7 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 11, 3 p.m. $30-$150. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

Pink Martini with the San Francisco Symphony: Dance Cabaret concert showcasing cabaret, samba, and jazz. Nov. 20-22, 7:30 p.m. $20-$110. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

Rigoletto: Performance of the timeless Verdi opera, with musical direction by Nicola Luisotti. See website for showtimes. Sept. 7-30. $27-$340. War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-3330. SFOpera.com.

San Francisco Symphony Presents: Featuring Ivan the Terrible conducted by Vladimir Jurowski. Oct. 18-20, 8 p.m. $37-$148. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Free Concert: Performing popular works. Fri. Sept. 21, 5 p.m. Free. Justin Herman Plaza, 1 Market St. EmbarcaderoCenter.com.

San Francisco Symphony Open Rehearsal: Wed. Sept. 5, 10 a.m. $22-$41. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Presents [illegible] and Mendelssohn: András Schiff conducts Bach's Keyboard Concertos No. 1 and 2 and Symphony No. 8. Thu. Oct. 11, 8 p.m.; Fri. Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.; Sat. Oct. 13, 8 p.m. $37-$145. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Presents Brahms' Fourth Symphony: conducted by Jaap van Zweden. Thu. Oct. 25, 2 p.m.; Fri. Oct. 26, 8 p.m.; Sat. Oct. 27, 8 p.m. $34-$145. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Performs Día de los Muertos Community Concert: Donato Cabrera conducts a concert celebrating Latino culture. Sat. Nov. 3, 2 p.m. $10-$60. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Performs Handel's Messiah: with choral conductor Ragnar Bohlin. Dec. 13-15, 7:30 p.m. $15.50-$145. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Presents [illegible]: Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the composer's 8th symphony. Sept. 28-29, 8 p.m.; Sun. Sept. 30, 2 p.m. $37-$146. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Performs [illegible]: Boléro, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas. Sun. Sept. 23, 2 p.m. $34-$185. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Presents [illegible]: Vasily Petrenko conducts Fountains of Rome and Pines of Rome. Thu. Oct. 4, 2 p.m.; Oct. 6, 8 p.m. $34-$152. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Presents Schubert and Shostakovich: Bychkov conducts Unfinished and Symphony No. 11. Sept. 12, 8 p.m.; Thu. Sept. 13, 2 p.m.; Fri. Sept. 14, 8 p.m.; Sat. Sept. 15, 8 p.m. $37-$145. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Presents Wagner: featuring Overture to Tannhäuser (Dresden version), and Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Opus 64, with Pinchas Zukerman, violin, and Semyon Bychkov. Sept. 5-8, 8 p.m. $35-$148. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Concert: Spirit of Christmas with Peabo Bryson, Marilyn McCoo, Billy Davis Jr., James Ingram and Stephanie Mills singing pop hits and Christmas favorites. Dec. 10-12, 8 p.m. $36-$80. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Presents: [illegible] the Night: with members of the symphony's brass section and chorus performing holiday tunes. Sat., Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m.; Sun. Dec. 23, 4 p.m.; Mon. Dec. 24, 2 p.m. $15-$70. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony with Natalie Cole: Thu. Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. $36-$180. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra Presents Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf: conducted by Donato Cabrera. Sat. Dec. 8, [illegible] p.m. $13.50-$57. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela: Featuring more than 200 young musicians, under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel. Different programs each night; check website for full program. Thu. Nov. 29, 8 p.m.; Fri. Nov. 30, 8 p.m. $30-$180. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

Symphony in the Garden: Featuring performances by the Oakland East Bay Symphony and the Oakland [illegible]. Sun. Sept. 16, 2 p.m. $10. Lakeside Park, Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Facilities/Points_Lakeside_Park.asp

Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra: Playing pieces by Chopin and Tchaikovsky. Nov. 11-12, 1 p.m. $34-$93. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

GOSPEL & VOCAL

[illegible] Presents: [illegible]: Sun. Dec. 2, 7 p.m. $35-$75. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400.

JAZZ, LOUNGE & CABARET

[illegible] Presents: [illegible]: Sat. Oct. 20, 8 p.m. $25-$85. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400.

SFJAZZ Presents: Grégoire Maret Quartet: Sun. Oct. 28, 5 p.m. $25-$40. Florence Gould Theater, Legion of Honor. 415-[illegible]

SFJAZZ Presents: Sonny Rollins: Sun. Sept. 30, 8:30 p.m. $35-$95. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

SFJAZZ Presents: [illegible] Brothers Band Reunion: With a special pre-concert talk starting at 7 p.m. Fri. Sept. 28, 8 p.m., $25-$70. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400.

SFJAZZ Presents: Septeto Nacional Ignacio Piñeiro de Cuba: [illegible] Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. $30-$45. Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California St. 415-292-1200. JCCSF.org.

[illegible] Presents: [illegible]: Fri. Nov. 9, 8 p.m. $25-$85. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

SFJAZZ Presents: [illegible]: Thu. Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m., $15-$65. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

SFJAZZ Presents: [illegible] New Gospel Quintet: Sat. Oct. 6, 8 p.m. $25-$40. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission St. 415-978-2787. YBCA.org.

SFJAZZ Presents: [illegible] Marsalis: Fri. Oct. 5, 8 p.m. $30-$60. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. 415-749-6300.

SFJAZZ Presents: Robert Glasper Experiment: Thu. Nov. 1, 8 p.m. $25-$50. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. 415-392-4400. PalaceofFineArts.org.

SFJAZZ Presents: Tony Malaby's Tamarindo: Featuring William Parker and Mark Ferber. Sat. Oct. 27, 8 p.m. $25. Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., 415-681-5638. SwedishAmericanHall.com.

SFJAZZ Presents: [illegible] All-Stars Combo: Fri. Nov. [illegible] p.m. $5-$15. [illegible], 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Presents: [illegible]: Sat. Sept. 29, 8 p.m. $30-$70. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400.

SFJAZZ Presents: Monk's Birthday: with Barry Harris, [illegible] and [illegible] Rodriguez. Wed. Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. $25-$60. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400.

Sweet Honey in the Rock: Sat. Dec. 8, 8 p.m., $27-$100. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

The Delfeayo Marsalis: Duke's Sweet Thunder: A new reinterpretation of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's 1957 tribute to Shakespeare. Tue. Oct. 16, 8 p.m. $20-$[illegible]. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

ROCK & POP

[illegible] Music Festival: With Girl Talk, The xx, M83, Porter Robinson, [illegible], Joanna Newsom, [illegible], Youth Lagoon and many more. Oct. 13-14, $75 per day or $139.50 for both days. Treasure Island, Treasure Island.

WORLD, LATIN, REGGAE & REGGAETON

Angélique Kidjo: the critically acclaimed African fusion vocalist performs a recital of original and classic songs. Sat., Nov. 17, 8 p.m. $22-$60. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

Danilo Pérez Trio: With a pre-concert talk starting at 6 p.m. Sun., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. $15-$40. San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275. www.sfcm.edu

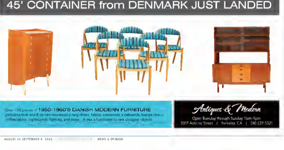
SFJAZZ Presents: [illegible]: Fri. Oct. 19, 8 p.m. $75-$85. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400.

[illegible]: Presenting traditional Georgian street music and chants. Sat. Oct. 27, 8 p.m. $18. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

SFJAZZ Presents: Jerry and Andy González: With Pete Villafañe and Arturo Stable. Thu. Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. $25-$75. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400.

[illegible] and Israel [illegible]: Wed. Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. $25-$60. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. 415-392-4400. PalaceofFineArts.org.

SFJAZZ Presents: Orquesta Aragón: Sun. Nov. 11, 7 p.m. $25-$85. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. 415-392-4400. PalaceofFineArts.org.



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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Oakland Pride's Family Ties

The annual celebration embraces LGBTQ families.

As is the case with any festival popular enough to be replicated around the world, LGBTQ Pride celebrations — whether in San Francisco or São Paulo — tend to share a few familiar trappings: a parade, a proliferation of rainbow flags, and at least a few men clad in leather chaps. Still, it's inevitable that each city would bring something unique to the template. In Oakland, which the 2010 US Census found to have one of the largest populations of same-sex couples of any American city, Pride has come to be something of a family affair.

Photo by [illegible]
A family at last year's Pride.

Since the annual event was revived in 2010 after a ten-year hiatus, it's been attracting a significant number of LGBTQ families, said organizer Amber Todd — so much so that it's become common to see kids tottering around the festival with face paint and balloons. It's a trend that Todd, a lesbian with four children of her own, sees as both a boon for the movement as a whole and a distinctive feature of the largest LGBTQ celebration in the city. "Relatively speaking, we've made our mark as not just as a Pride, but as a Pride that's accomplishing what so many others don't embrace," she said. "We should be supporting our LGBTQ families and their kids, and showing them that it's okay to have two moms and dads."

To put things into context, it's now been more than four decades since the Stonewall riots — a nearly week-long protest against the New York City Police Department's raid of a popular Greenwich Village gay bar — sparked the first gay pride marches. The rallies paved the way for the LGBT civil rights movement and set in motion the now far-reaching tradition of Pride celebrations. There's no doubt still an underlying activist element to the events, but it's also become the case that, just as gay marriage is becoming more accepted and policies like "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are being repealed, Pride events, as a whole, are becoming more family-friendly.

Todd stressed that Oakland Pride's familial atmosphere — buoyed by a sizable children's area complete with a petting zoo and ample arts and crafts — hasn't tempered events for kid-free folks who come for the unbridled entertainment. "It is Pride," she said. "So you're still going to see very interesting stuff."

This year's festival, on Sunday, September 2, features four themed music stages on which Santana tribute band Caravanserai, R&B vocalist CeCe Peniston, and the Flipmode Squad's Rah Digga will be some of the headliners. A "Community Health Pavilion" offers free HIV screening, counseling sessions, and other LGBTQ-related wellness services. But it's fair to say that much of the revelry will be shaped by the festivalgoers themselves, the tens of thousands of people who Todd anticipates will show up to celebrate. "It's not just about Oakland Pride," she said. "It's about community and civic pride. And being proud of who you are." The festival happens in Uptown Oakland (Franklin St., between 17th and 22nd sts.). 11 a.m.-7 p.m., $5-$10. 510-545-6251 or OaklandPride.org.

— *Cassie McFadden*

ATTRACTIONS

Fridays on [illegible] [illegible] Main Street Plaza, [illegible] St., Martinez. 925-228-3511. [illegible]

Oakland Walking Tour: Chinatown [illegible] of Chinese and other Asian immigrants to the history of both California and the Bay Area. Sat., Sept. 1, 10 a.m.; Wed., Sept. 26, 10 a.m.; Sat., Oct. 20, 10 a.m. free. 510-238-3234. [illegible] Public Renaissance Place, 388 9th St., Oakland. [illegible]

Oakland Walking Tour: Waterfront With a tour of the USS Potomac, the [illegible] yacht of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and more. Meets at Jack London Square [illegible]. To RSVP: 510-238-3234 or [illegible] Wed., Sept. 5, 10 a.m.; Sat., Sept. 22, 10 a.m.; Tue., Oct. 30, 10 a.m. free. [illegible]

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

Alameda Point Antiques Faire With more than 800 antique dealers. First Sunday of every month, 6 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible] Alameda Point Antiques Faire, 2900 Navy Way, Alameda. 510-522-7500. AlamedaPointAntiquesFaire.com.

[illegible] [illegible] Sept. 1-3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $5-$10, kids under 3 free. [illegible] Fremont. 510-544-2797. [illegible]

Family Fun Day [illegible] Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. Continues through Sept. 1. [illegible] Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. [illegible]

[illegible] Annual [illegible] With dancing, music, and other revelry [illegible] Mon., Sept. 3, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-453-0334. [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] With all-you-can-eat [illegible] wine, and live music [illegible] Sat., Sept. 1, 6-10 p.m. [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

East Bay Chronic Pain Group Call [illegible] at 510-655-3[illegible] or e-mail [illegible] for more information. First and third Tuesday of every month, 3-5 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5011. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Wed., Sept. 5, [illegible] free. [illegible] 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] For ages 18 and up. [illegible] Saturdays, 4-5 p.m. [illegible] South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., Berkeley. 510-981-5170.

[illegible] Workshop For women who have just been diagnosed or are undergoing treatment. With group support and information by guest breast experts. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Oct. 31. free. [illegible] Walnut Creek. 925-933-0107.

Peer Counseling With confidential drop-in counseling with a talk therapy approach. Mondays-Fridays, [illegible] p.m. free. 510-548-2570. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2570. BerkeleyFreeClinic.org.

KIDS

Art Happenin' with MOCHA Artists from the Museum of Children's Art [illegible] art workshops with different themes each week. Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5812. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Oakland [illegible] Ages 3 and up. Wed., Sept. 5, 3 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Children's Arts and Crafts With crafts and activities for families [illegible] Arts & Crafts Center. [illegible] Sundays, [illegible] p.m. Continues through Sept. 2. [illegible] Children's Fairyland, [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

East Bay Moms [illegible] [illegible] Fri., Aug. 31, 10 a.m. free. EastBayMoms.com. [illegible] Berkeley. 510-642-[illegible]

[illegible] in the Park [illegible] Aug. 3[illegible] free. Redwood Heights Community Center, 3883 Aliso Ave., Oakland.

Preschool Storytime A reading event for preschoolers. First and third Wednesday of every month, 10:30 a.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

San Leandro Farmers' [illegible] Kids Day With special activities for kids. First Saturday of every month, [illegible] free. San Leandro Farmers' Market, [illegible]

Video Game Programming for Kids A class for kids over age 8 [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon. free. The Oakland of Art and Digital Entertainment, [illegible] Oakland. TheMADE.org.

LGBT

Butch-Stud Support Group A weekly drop-in support group for masculine, female-identified women [illegible] Mondays, 1-5 p.m. free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., Sept. 1, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible] Oakland. 510-835-[illegible]

[illegible] Group A drop-in peer group for lesbian women of color [illegible] Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Men with [illegible] No [illegible] experience necessary to participate in this erotic massage gathering. Every third Friday, 7-11 p.m., $20 with a $5 discount for bringing your own towel. [illegible] 4929 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-495-4098. [illegible]

Oakland Pride Tour With a discussion gallery tour exploring California's LGBT history. Sun., Sept. 2, 1 p.m. free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

[illegible] Oakland An art show to raise funds to support transgender and LGBTQ prisoners. Through Aug. 31. Café Gabriela, 855 Broadway, Oakland. 510-710-2220.

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at EastBayExpress.com
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PETS

[illegible] Foundation Adoptions With [illegible] Saturdays, 11-5:30 p.m. [illegible] Pet Food Express, North Oakland, 6398 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible] PetFoodExpress.com.

Free Dog Advice Thursdays Get advice on house training your puppy, grooming, [illegible] or knowing when you need to go to the vet. Leave your dog in your car until instructed otherwise. Consults are limited to five [illegible] Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. free. Paws Collars, 2906 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7228. PawsCollars.com.

[illegible] Adoptions A mobile adoption event. Also held at the Rockridge location (5144 Broadway, Oakland) from noon to 2 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month. First Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. [illegible] Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2661 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-864-2222. PetFoodExpress.com.

[illegible] Adoption With [illegible] First Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. [illegible] Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2661 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-864-2222. PetFoodExpress.com.

[illegible] Adoptions With opportunities to adopt or foster house-trained dogs over seven years old. At Pet Food Express (1[illegible] California Blvd., Walnut Creek). First Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. 415-272-4172. [illegible]

Pet Loss Support Group A drop-in group for those preparing for or already grieving the end of a pet. [illegible] First Saturday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. [illegible] Congregational Church, [illegible] Pleasant Hill. 925-[illegible]

Pitty Puppies With puppies [illegible] for adoption. First Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. Pet Food Express, El Cerrito, 5420 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-[illegible] PetFoodExpress.com.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

[illegible] [illegible] Sylvia Gretchen and the Nyingma Psychology faculty [illegible] dream yoga workshop [illegible] Thursdays, [illegible] Continues through Sept. 27. $72. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

Kum Nye A drop-in class for all levels, with techniques for relaxation, healing, relieving tension, and revitalizing body and mind. Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon. $15. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

[illegible] With drum meditation [illegible] Last Friday of every month, [illegible] p.m. free. [illegible] Healing Connection, Inc., 5279 [illegible] St., Emeryville. 510-[illegible] Oakland.org.

Public Satsang With guidance from teacher Peter Brown. First and third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

Alameda [illegible] Flea Market With collectibles, custom jewelry, beauty accessories, fashion, home decor, and vintage and antique items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. free. 510-919-1431, [illegible] College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda. 510-522-7221. [illegible]

BBQ & Beer A fundraiser for Parent Voices Oakland with a raffle, cake walk, barbecue, children's activities, drinks by [illegible] and more. Fri., Aug. 31, 5:30-8 p.m. $10-$12 (for dinner). 510-658-7353. BANANAS, 5232 Claremont Ave., Oakland. 510-658-0380. Bananasbayarea.org.

East Bay Feed [illegible] With [illegible] spoken word poetry by [illegible] and live performances by Beat the System, [illegible] and more. Sat., Sept. 1, [illegible] p.m. $10. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170. BerkeleyArtHouse.WordPress.com.

Eat, Drink, and [illegible] A fundraiser for adaptive sports with [illegible], a silent auction, and more. Wed., Sept. 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m. price of food varies. [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-0820. [illegible]

The Nova Studio's [illegible] Anniversary Party A customer appreciation day with demos, door prizes, a soap competition, networking with other product makers, prizes, drinks, and more. Sat., Sept. 1, 1-4 p.m. free. The Nova Studio, 24 [illegible] Richmond Ave., Richmond. 510-234-5700. TheNovaStudio.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Mondays Mondays, [illegible] p.m. [illegible] The Lincoln Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244. TheLincolnLounge.com.

Art & [illegible] Learn the logistics of color mixing and composition, with bottles of drink wine and [illegible] Participants take home a finished painting. Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. $30. 510-463-1444. [illegible] Corrall Cellars, 330 Webster St., Oakland. 510-550-2900. CorrallCellars.com.

Art & [illegible] Learn the logistics of color mixing and composition, with bottles of drink wine and [illegible] Participants take home a finished painting. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 6. $30. 510-463-1444. [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Berkeley Underground Film Society Join the film club for screenings of [illegible] This week: The Blue Angel (1930) on 16mm [illegible] Studio at 2[illegible] Gilman St., Berkeley. Sun., Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] BerkeleyUndergroundFilms.blogspot.com.

[illegible] Bingo [illegible] weekly bingo game with prizes to raise funds for various nonprofits. This week's game raises funds for [illegible] Thursdays, [illegible] p.m. [illegible] Café, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Trivia Night Quiz master [illegible] leads a weekly group pub quiz with prizes. Mondays, 7:30 p.m. free. [illegible] Ale House, 2851 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Oakland Party and Film Screening With [illegible] of Occupy the Bay and live music by [illegible] Fri., Aug. 31, 6 p.m. $10-$25. The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible] 25thStreetCollective.com.

Oakland Under the [illegible] Learn how to Salsa dance on the waterfront. Fri., Aug. 31, [illegible] p.m. free. Jack London Square, 54 Washington St., Oakland.

[illegible] A [illegible] mixer showcasing emerging performance artists. With up to $500 in cash prizes. Third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. First Wednesday of every month, [illegible] p.m. [illegible] Oct. 3. $5. 510-306-1170. [illegible] The Vagabond Saloon, [illegible] Isabella St., [illegible]

Kensington Library Berkeley Club With [illegible]

PICKS

Inaugural Pride Bike Ride

Long after the [illegible] restraints ma[illegible] kept the [illegible] Oakland Pride Fest[illegible] from hosting its own parade, but this year there's an alternative for those who lament the lack of any organized march associated with the LGBTQ celebration. Event organizer deeTen, which is running a slew of events throughout the city in conjunction with the annual festival, hosts the Inaugural Pride Bike Ride starting at the West Oakland BART station (1451 7th St.) on Friday, Aug. 31. Co-organized by Oakland Spokes and Beta Garage, the raucous ride will feature bicycles decked out with flags, sound systems, and whatever else riders add to the revelry en route to a Pride kick-off party at Disco Volante (347 14th St., Oakland). 6-8 p.m., free. 510-842-6325 or 510OaklandPride.com — *Cassie McFadden*

THREADS Clothing Swap

As if [illegible] Sarah [illegible] (aka "Sugar") of local production company Oaktown Indie Mayhem didn't have her hands full with projects already, from the annual 48 Hour Film Festival to the monthly X-Over Music Series at Actual Cafe, she's now hosting a monthly clothing swap. Held in the yard at Classic Cars West (411 26th St., Oakland) on every first Saturday of the month, including Saturday, Sep. 1, THREADS affords ladies and gents alike an opportunity to trade in their unwanted garments for duds discarded by others. Aside from garment bartering, each event also features live music, local craft beer, and homemade sausages for sale. And remember: Just as one man's trash is another's treasure, one woman's old cardigan is another's flashy new sweater. 2-6 p.m., free. 510-910-5413 or OaktownIndieMayhem.com — *CM*

ing, show-and-tell, and yarn exchange open to all levels. First Monday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

Oakland Unough A weekly yoga session accompanied by live music by local musicians. Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. $8-$15. [illegible] Social Club, 2317 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland.

Field Day Peas A monthly BBQ with sangria, DJs, and [illegible] sessions. First Sunday of every month, free. The Book [illegible], 1[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Playland After Dark A game night for grown-ups with free pinball, board games, and access to Playland's regular attractions. Thu., Aug. 30, $10. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

Smokin' Club With a monthly tournament (time TBA). Third and last Saturday of every month, 1-5:30 p.m. $8. It's Your Move Games and Hobbies, 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-541-4380. ItsYourMove-Games.com.

SF Oakland Steady Casual, freestyle barefoot dancing to world, funk, down tempo, and other ear-friendly music. Alcohol and scent free. Sundays, 7:30-11 p.m., $8-$15. [illegible] Eighth Street Studio, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-327-5815.

Summer Nights at OMCA With taco dining, a [illegible] workshop, a mobile pinball theater screening *Once Upon a Time in the West*, music by Ancestral Bro., extended gallery hours, and more. Fri., Aug. 31, 5-9 p.m. Half off admission after 5 p.m. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Trivia and Tacos Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m., free. The Fireside Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244. TheFireside-Lounge.com.

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SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Dragon Boat Racing Join the Alameda Dragon Flyers for free, extended try dragon boating sessions. Equipment provided. Meets at 2430 Mariner Square Dr., Alameda. Saturdays, 8:45-11:30 a.m., free. 510-931-7555. AlamedaDragonFlyers.com.

East Bay Hills Fireflay Thru-Hike 2012 With 5 five-day hike from Hayward to Martinez, camping along the way. An approximately 60-mile trek on the Bay Ridge Trail. Meals and camping gear provided. Call or visit website for locations. Through Sept. 2. $15-$250 for full trip. [illegible] RidgeTrail.org.

Endless Cycles Lake Chabot Night Ride Weekly off-road mountain bike rides followed by pizza and beverages. Bicycle lights required. Riders of all skill-levels welcome. Contact [illegible]@yahoo.com or [illegible] for more information. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free. Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley. 510-247-2526. EBParks.org/Parks/Lake_Chabot.

Fast-Pitch Oakland Pick-up Softball With weekly [illegible] softball games. Saturdays 12-2:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 27, free. 510-234-6630. Montclair Ball Field, 6700 Moraga Ave., Oakland. 510-482-1802.

Field Ride Play [illegible] fighting video games like *Soul Calibur* and *Street Fighter*, with a tournament at 7:30 p.m. Tournament game determined by participants. Tuesdays, 2-9 p.m. $7. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 3017 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

Full Moon Walk Series: Walk Moon Hike [illegible] and and [illegible] learn about [illegible] and the moon cycle. Ages 15 and up. Fri., Aug. 31, 7:30-9 p.m., $8. Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave. 510-670-7270.

Hooping With hoopdancing for people of all ages. Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

Oakland Yoga With weekly Sogi Yoga sessions in the garden. Thursdays, 8-9:15 a.m. Continues through Aug. 30, $12-$15. Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-944-9352. RuthBancroftGarden.org.

Pickleball A fast-paced game combining elements of tennis, ping pong, and volleyball. For all ages and experience levels. Played on the tennis courts. Saturdays, 9-11:30 a.m., $3-$5. $8 [illegible] 510-559-7219. AlbanyCa.org. Ocean View Field, 900 Buchanan St., Albany.

Poles for Hiking and Outdoor Exercise Workshop Learn how to use poles to engage your whole body while hiking or walking. Thu., Aug. 30, 7-8:30 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Pub Quiz Trivia Sundays, 7:30 p.m., free. Swell Bar, 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-0353. SwellBarAlameda.com.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Happy Hour Racing With half-off admission, food, and drink specials, and free live music. Live racing from 2:30-6 p.m. Fridays. Through Aug. 31. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

Labor Day '70s Throwback Pal Giveaway and Wiener Nationals With Dashiell and more in between horse races and free baseball hats featuring the vintage 1970's Golden Gate Fields logo. Mon., Sept. 3, $0-$15. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

Oakland A's Versus the Boston Red Sox. Fri., Aug. 31, 7:05 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 1, 6:05 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 2, 1:05 p.m. $12-$72. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com. Versus the Los Angeles Angels. Mon., Sept. 3, 1:05 p.m.; Tue., Sept. 4, 7:05 p.m.; Wed., Sept. 5, 12:35 p.m., $2-$200. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

UC Berkeley Field Hockey Versus Northwestern University. Fri., Aug. 31, 2 p.m. Free. Maxwell Field, Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-1321. CalBears.com/FacilitiesMaxwellField.html.

UC Berkeley Football Versus Nevada. Sat., Sept. 1, noon, free. Memorial Stadium, 2227 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 800-462-3277.

UC Berkeley Women's Soccer Versus San Francisco. Sun., Sept. 2, noon, free. Edwards Stadium, Bancroft Way at Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-2827. CalBears.com/Facilities/EdwardsStadium.html ●

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Work in Progress

Amanda Curreri's open residency at Royal Nonesuch Gallery *Aunque, Violencia es Total* allows visitors to see her intriguing intellectual frontier space in development.

Four mornings a week, Amanda Curreri holds open studio hours at Royal Nonesuch Gallery, where she is the third artist this summer to undertake a uniquely public residency. I found her working on a denim-and-yellow fabric weave at a messy table. Several other such weaves adorned the walls, along with a pair of blue jeans, a simple drawing of tussling coyotes, some vintage issues of *Playboy* and *Esquire*, and a copy of *Therese et Isabelle* by lesbian French author Violette Leduc. A hanging American flag curtained the artist from Saturday morning Telegraph Avenue.

I asked about the purpose of the flag. "To deal with it," Curreri responded, thoughtfully. She went on to explain her fraught (her term) relationship with US national symbolism. Its entanglement in systems of violence has long disturbed her, while people close to her have acted complicity, if not especially zealously, in such systems. Her ex-spouse was in the military. So was her father — the flag veiling her temporary studio was the one sent to her upon his death.

Curreri's residency, which will ultimately shake out into an exhibition at Romer Young Gallery in San Francisco this winter, unfolds from its title: *Aunque, Violencia es Total*. Spanish for "although" or "even though," *aunque* denotes an alternative space that exists in spite of a predominant one — here, presumably, the American state of "violencia es total."

"I'm building the upcoming exhibition to be the space of even though," said Curreri. "Like the Wild West allows you to swagger, spit, carry a pistol, I want to create a space of *aunque* that is filled with desire in the face of violence."

Amanda Curreri at *Aunque, Violencia es Total*

Hence, the blue jeans, coyotes, and homoerotic literature opposite the mainstream gentlemen's magazines. Also roaming this intellectual frontier space is the wily figure of Jean Genet, French poet, playwright, critical theorist, and voice for desire in spite of politics and social taboo. His works litter the gallery and on August 24 Curreri is staging a public reading of excerpts from his writings, to be called "Jean Genet in the Aunque."

"It will be helpful to test out the ideas in a performative choreography," said Curreri with regard to the reading. "That's the general approach for the month — public testing ground."

Indeed, while the flag happened to be a solid place to begin my inquiries, Curreri's residency is not equivalent to a typical exhibition in which every object can be assumed to hold calculated place. Rather, many objects, such as the weaves, function more as "pre-work," which may or may not evolve into anything that will wind up in the eventual exhibition. "I'm midstream," Curreri said, "so to use the residency to my benefit I've got to be a bit vulnerable showing work in progress."

Amanda Curreri's residency for *Aunque, Violencia es Total* runs through September 7 at Royal Nonesuch (4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 415-652-1625 or RoyalNonesuchGallery.com

— *Alex Bigman*

ART GALLERIES

[illegible], Money, and Memories With paintings by [illegible], Scott [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Sept. 9.

1047 Artists [illegible] Lobby Gallery: [illegible] and Textures of [illegible], Water, and Earth With colorful photography and [illegible] paintings by [illegible]. Through Oct. 26. 1047 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-981-7060.

ActualCafe: Illustrated With works by Mikhael Olive, Sophie Leininger, Nana Lynch, Rachel [illegible] and Emily Parrish. Through Aug. 31. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8380. ActualCafe.com.

[illegible] Street [illegible] Gallery: Contemporary Behind Beauty With photographs by [illegible]. Through Sept. 15. 2018 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-981-7548.

Addison/White Windows, [illegible] Gallery: A site-wide exhibit featuring mixed media works mapping the artist's physical exposure and psychological and emotional spaces. Through Jan. 31. 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley. [illegible].

Alameda Free Library: Non-Representational Art With colorful geometric paintings by Jean Carter on display on the second floor. Through Sept. 1. 1550 Oak St., Alameda. 510-747-7717. CityofAlamedaCA.gov/Library.

Albany Community Center Arts Foyer Gallery: The Painting in the Story With large acrylic paintings by Larry [illegible]. Through Dec. 2. [illegible]. 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9283. AlbanyCA.org/index.aspx?page=561.

Berkeley Art Center: Beauty The Annual juried exhibition features works across media by [illegible], Sarah Lopez, [illegible], Meghan [illegible], Eric Larson, [illegible], Laura Letz, Melissa May, [illegible], and many others. Through Sept. 9. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library: Gallery: [illegible] From Artists With aerial photographs depicting landscapes of agricultural, industrial, and architectural subjects in the Bay Area and beyond by Michael Light in the Artists reading lobby. Through Sept. 4. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

The Bookmark Bookstore: Julie Waldman Quilt Exhibit Through Aug. 31. 721 Washington St., Oakland. 510-444-0473. FOPL.org/bookmark-bookstore.

[illegible]: Works in Nature A boutique installation with works by 12 [illegible] artists including Terri Franco, Susannah Israel, Patrick Sells, and [illegible]. Daily. [illegible] California [illegible] Way, [illegible].

Bullseye Gallery: Fastforward: Artists at the Forefront of Painterly Glass A group exhibition surveying the current landscape of painting with glass. With works by Kari Minnick, Michael Janis, Martha Pfanschmidt, Ted Sawyer, Abi Spring, and Jeff Wallin. Through Dec. 29. 4514 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-595-1318. BullseyeGlass.com.

Chabot Space & Science Center: The Sun as Art With images captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory and the NASA/ESA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory. Through Sept. 3. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: Outsiders With sculptures by Sandra Ono and paintings by [illegible], Lisa Espenmiller and [illegible], all of which [illegible] the use of [illegible] pattern in various media. Through Sept. 28. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

[illegible] Gallery: The Elephant in the Room With works by dozens of local artists addressing "sensitive subjects that we usually don't talk about." Through Sept. 1. 4325 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. [illegible]. [illegible]Gallery.org.

The Compound Gallery & Studios: Group Exhibition Sept. 1-30. [illegible] 65th St., Oakland. [illegible]. TheCompoundGallery.com.

Creative Growth Art Center: [illegible] With works by Creative Growth artists, depicting [illegible]. Through Sept. 27. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

[illegible]: [illegible] Works by Alameda [illegible] Through Sept. 6. 481 A 9th St.

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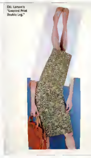
PICKS

Beauty

This year's juried exhibition at the Berkeley Art Center *Beauty* offers a wide and rich, if thinly spread, survey on the theme. Twenty-five artists, most exhibiting only one piece, twist, intensify and debunk the notion of "beauty." In Matthew Gottschalk's "50 of People Magazine's Most Beautiful People 2012," the viewer has the rare pleasure of being able to handle and flip through the artist's acrylic portraits, the celebrity subjects of which look as blissful as they do strung out. Miro Pinch captures a conventionally attractive woman with a fashion photography approach, while across the way a drag queen in church linen Neil Rhon captures a coquettish glance, giving the other subject a run for her money. Other artists approach beauty more obliquely as with Sonja Schenk's "Landfill" — a drawing of a road disintegrating along a vertical, with an actual hunk of concrete and plastic hanging precariously beside it. *Beauty* runs through September 9 at Berkeley Art Center (1275 Walnut St., Berkeley). 510-644-6893 or BerkeleyArtCenter.org. — *Alex Bigman*



Eric Larson's "Leopard Print Double Leg."

Oakland. 510-517-8180. [illegible]

David Alsorro: Always Thinking Like a River. Art, [illegible] and the Legacy in [illegible] With [illegible] photography by [illegible], landscape photography by Joseph [illegible], and [illegible] On display in the [illegible] Gallery. Through Aug. 31. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] College. Sacred Art of Tibet: Art of the [illegible] [illegible] College's first [illegible] exhibition [illegible] original [illegible] paintings, golden [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], along with original photographs of Tibet and other art works. Through Sept. 30. 2222 Harold Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

Ed Roberts Campus. [illegible] With photographs by [illegible]. Through Aug. 31. 2075 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. [illegible] EdRobertsCampus.org.

Expressions Gallery. The [illegible], Oakland [illegible] Shaw [illegible] mediums. Through Aug. 28. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

[illegible] Show: No More, No Less With [illegible] images rendered in [illegible], by [illegible] Wright. Through Aug. 31. [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] Center and Art Gallery. An [illegible] Moment in Time… With hand-printed black-and-white photography by [illegible]. Through Aug. 31. [illegible] Ct., [illegible]. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] of East Asian Studies. In the Shadow of Hiroshima: Historical [illegible] of Life With drawings of scenes from daily life by Japanese school children following the bombing of Hiroshima, which were sent as a thank-you gift to the All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D.C. for the aid it had provided them. Through Sept. 13. 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-6636. IEAS.berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] The gallery's inaugural [illegible] of [illegible] to [illegible] and engaging ways with Shaw by Rachel [illegible], [illegible] Hugo [illegible] exploring [illegible] Park, and [illegible]. Through Sept. 5-30. 480 49th St., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] Projects. [illegible] With [illegible] violence [illegible] by [illegible]. Through Oct. 6. 2309 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-[illegible] JohansenProjects.com.

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden. [illegible] Harmony in [illegible] With works exploring physical, natural and emotional [illegible] by artist [illegible]. Through Sept. 4. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. JuliesTea.com.

Kala Art Institute. Gallery. Kala Residency Projects With works by [illegible] Carlson, [illegible], [illegible] Frost, Seth [illegible], Vanessa Marsh, [illegible] Pistone, Lauren [illegible] and Gail Wight. Through Sept. 15. **On View: New Work from Kala** With artists in a variety of media by Kala Art Institute-affiliated artists, exploring Luis Antonmont, [illegible], Mary Anne [illegible], David McClaskey, [illegible], Beth Pauwels, [illegible] and more. Through Sept. 15. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Lamorinda [illegible] and Pub. [illegible] With photographs by Angie [illegible]. Through Aug. 31. 3945 San [illegible] Ave., Emeryville. 510-594-0400. [illegible]

Lothers Gallery. [illegible] McLennan With paintings and [illegible] life in Oakland. Through Sept. 14. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible] ProArtsGallery.org.

Local 123. [illegible] A [illegible] exhibit of photos taken within 200 yards of Local 123. Through Aug. 31. 2049 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible] Local123Gallery.com.

MacArthur B Arthur. [illegible] of the World With works across media exploring how imagination and memory shape the [illegible] of intense and intimate [illegible] by [illegible] Beck, Paul [illegible], Elizabeth Marsh, and [illegible]. Through Sept. 2. 4030 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-219-0774. MacArthurBArthur.com.

[illegible] Theater. [illegible] I Am America: [illegible] Through the Eye of An Artist A traveling exhibit commemorating the black [illegible] who contributed to the making of [illegible] immediately before, during, and after the Civil War. Through Sept. 28. 3420 Alice St., Oakland. 510-238-7210. MOCAtheater.com.

[illegible] Gallery. White Bridge: [illegible] With oil paintings by Wayne Armstrong. Through Sept. 28. **Virtual [illegible]** With acrylic paintings by [illegible]. Through Sept. 22. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible] MannaGallery.com.

Marion & Rose's Workshop. [illegible] With works by [illegible] exploring oil and spray paint on wood panel, hand cut and [illegible] and digital [illegible] to evoke feelings from fragile to triumphant. Through Sept. 7. 461 9th St., Oakland. 510-204-6794. MarionandRose.com.

Mercury 20 Gallery. Split Mix With conceptual geometric paintings and [illegible] and evocative [illegible] by [illegible]. Through Sept. 8. **[illegible] and Dance** With paintings on rice paper scrolls by Arthur Huang, [illegible] sculptures by [illegible], [illegible] style oil paintings by Dana Lyons, and more. Through Sept. 8. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible] Mercury20.com.

MOCO. Free [illegible] Gallery [illegible] With [illegible] exhibition of [illegible] artists, technology and nature by Chris Silva. Through Aug. 31. 371 17th St., Oakland. 510-395-3848. [illegible]

Oakopolis [illegible] Lens & [illegible] With paintings by Judy [illegible] and ceramic sculpture and poetry by [illegible]. Through Sept. 22. 447 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible] Oakopolis.org.

Philz Coffee. [illegible] Photography & [illegible] An exhibit of Cuba: folk art and murals. Through Sept. 31. [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-705-[illegible] PhilzCoffee.com.

PHOTO. Body Awareness With works exploring the body by Judy [illegible], Cay Lang, [illegible], Mandy Sacks, [illegible], Charlotte [illegible], Jan Camp, Ralph [illegible], John [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Aug. 31. **Gallery [illegible]** With square-format photographs of Berkeley cars and other [illegible] by Kirk Thompson. Through Aug. 31. **Awareness** With [illegible] photographs by [illegible] Davis, John [illegible], [illegible] Hays, Henry [illegible], Jan Camp, Erin Malone, [illegible], John [illegible], Cay Lang, Irene [illegible], and Whitney [illegible]. Through Sept. 29. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-417-0448. PHOTOGallery.com.

PhotoCentral Gallery and Darkroom. The Golden Gate Bridge: Then and Now With original vintage photographs of the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge by photographer Mabel C. Taylor. Through Sept. 29. 1099 E St., Hayward. 510-881-6721. PhotoCentral.org.

[illegible] & Gallery. Your [illegible] & Neighbors With works by East Bay artists. Through Aug. 31. 2315 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-865-1880. [illegible] Alameda.org.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery. 3 for 3: Three Summer [illegible] August artist-in-residence [illegible] works on Europe, [illegible] exploring [illegible] through materials like leather and [illegible]. Through Sept. 7. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-690-3841. RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] + W. Scott [illegible] With an exhibition of pastel paintings and [illegible]. Through Sept. 30. 5[illegible] 2nd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible] SwarmGallery.com.

[illegible] Art Gallery. Oakland, [illegible] A special exhibition of artists by Calvin Coleman, [illegible] Lee, and [illegible] Richardson. Through Sept. 30. 5641 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-4251.

Tilden Park Environmental Education [illegible] Show With works celebrating nature and conservation by 80 professional and amateur artists. Through Aug. 31. north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

Transmission Gallery. [illegible] Show The new gallery showcases works by 19 Bay Area artists. Through Sept. 15. 770 West Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-817-2123. TransmissionGallery.com.

Traywick Contemporary. [illegible] World 4 A group exhibition featuring site-specific installations by Steve Briscoe, [illegible] Gardner, [illegible], and Nancy Mintz. Through Sept. 22. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. Traywick.com.

[illegible] Garden. [illegible] A [illegible] project between the Botanical Garden and a [illegible] group of artists, writers, architects, and researchers who spent time in the garden with horticulturalists. [illegible] Gallery [illegible]. Through Jan. 13, 2013. [illegible] 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. [illegible]

Gallery: Oakland Art Murmur Show A weekly complement to Art Murmur but with fewer festivities and more focus on the galleries. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 23rd St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] With [illegible] by Alex [illegible] and [illegible] Kong, [illegible] of People's Choice honors and prestigious [illegible] in The Tacoma Museum of [illegible]. Through Sept. 2. **[illegible]** With [illegible] by [illegible] and sculpture by [illegible] and Cyrus Tilton. Sept. 4-29. 471 25th St., Oakland.

The Warehouse. [illegible] With works influenced by the [illegible] by artists who lived through the decade. Through Aug. 30. 456 23rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. Warehouse416.com.

MUSEUMS

African American Museum and Library in Oakland. The Way of the Doll An artist highlighting doll-making and collecting. Through Nov. 10. 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0198. OaklandLibrary.org/AAMLO.

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA). Barry McGee The first [illegible] survey of the prolific San Francisco [illegible] street artist [illegible] rarely seen early etchings, his signature [illegible], [illegible] painted panels, [illegible], a re-creation of a liquor-corner bodega, and more. Through Dec. 9. **Lutz Bacher / MATRIX 242** Featuring Ben Pleat, a rarely seen [illegible] of works incorporating a collection of Vietnam-era photographs found in a Berkeley vintage store. Through Oct. 7. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: Journey to the Land of Snows** Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. **D.L. Alvarez / MATRIX 243** Oakland artist D.L. Alvarez's series of drawings of [illegible] postcard [illegible] from John Carpenter's *Halloween* explores the "violent and of [illegible]." Through Oct. 2. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Historical Society. Early Days of Dance in the East Bay With photographs of various East Bay dance groups/dancers from 1911 onward. Through Sept. 28. 1931 Center St., Berkeley. 510-848-0181. [illegible]

Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life. Projections Multimedia projects from the museum's extensive collections of [illegible] documentary and [illegible] films. Daily. **Roberts Lab** [illegible] Installation allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Oakland Museum of California. Dan and [illegible]: Valley of [illegible] and [illegible] With photographs exploring California's Central Valley, highlighting the experiences of farm workers and their families. Through Dec. 31. **The 1968 Exhibit** A multimedia exhibition examining the events of 1968, a turning point for a generation coming of age and a nation at war. Through Nov. 25. **Gallery of California Art** With more than 800 works from the OMCA collection. Through Dec. 2. **Free First Sundays** Free museum admission every first Sunday of the month. First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

The Last Laugh With Tom Lazy, Ben Keith, Tom Fitzwood, Marc Rubean, and Samson Koletkar. Sat., Sept. 1, 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. TheLastLaugh.com. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-291-1641. PanTheater.com.

Shoot Soup Improv Sat., Sept. 1, 8-10 p.m. $7 $.0 $. [illegible] Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824. 1924.org.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Treated by LeRoy Stanford Jr. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m. [illegible] Island Paradise Club, 1436 Webster St., Alameda, 510-865-3205, IslandParadiseClub.com.

The Latest Story With weekly improv comedy. All-female show precedes each at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 5 p.m. $10-$12. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-291-1641. PanTheater.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Bellydance Bay: The Invasion about Shabnam Shirvani celebrates ten years of teaching and performing with dynamic events on belly dance with over a dozen award-winning acts. Sat., Sept. 1, 8-10 p.m. $15. BellyDanceBay.com. Rhythmic Cultural Works, 2513 Berkeley Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060. Rhythmic.org.

LIVE VARIETY

Bay Area Teen Talent Fest A showcase of talented Bay Area teens, featuring celebrity guests and performers. Fri., Aug. 31, 6-9 p.m. $7-$10. Bal Theatre, 14808 East 14th St., San Leandro, 510-614-1228.

Fight Songs, A Mixtape Vol. 2 A performance showcase of new, queer, femme, and transgender artists. With drag, music, burlesque, monologues, and more. Fri., Aug. 31, 8 p.m. $12-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

smart about it drag show featuring Vegas Jake, Randy Puck, Stevie Ray Mackey Kent, Pepe Pez, Cardie Logan Cornwell, and more, followed by dancing, and DJs. Third and first Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m. $5. White Horse Inn, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820. WhiteHorseBar.com.

Rocky Horror Picture Show Fri., Aug. 31, 8:30 p.m. $5. Smith Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, 510-659-6031. SmithCenter.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

All My Sons Jon Tracy directs Arthur Miller's classic drama about a family's dark secret, and their fleeting hopes that it can stay hidden when Artie will come home. Sundays, 2 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 29. $20-$45. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

Blithe Spirit Mark Rucker directs Noël Coward's play about a novelist who gets more than he bargained for when conducting research for a book on the occult. Produced by Cal Shakes and performed in an outdoor amphitheater. Sundays, 4 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 1, 2 p.m. Continues through Sept. 2. $35-$71. CalShakes.org. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Chinglish Leigh Silverman directs the West Coast premiere of David Henry Hwang's Broadway comedy about the cross-cultural gaffes that occur on an American businessman's trip to Asia. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Sat. 7. $14.50-$89. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Cinderella Misty Megia directs a performance of Rogers and Hammerstein's classic tale, with a steampunk spin. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Thu., Aug. 30, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 31. $15-$25. Ourtable-CalPerformingArts.org. Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley.

Dan exists *The Kipling Hotel: True Misadventures of the Electric Pink 80s* Reed's one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at working as a stripper and a gigolo to his stint as a live-in waiter at a retirement hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 28. $20-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity Ian Lazy Gee... Bay Area premiere of Kristoffer Diaz's fantasy play about a Bubble-rock Puerto Rican pro-wrestler who's made a career out of being a flash. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. $32-$60. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

The Fisherman's Wife Ben Randle directs Steel Pooka's nautical sex farce about a fisherman, his restless wife, and a seven-foot horny octopus and giant squid. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 29. $16-$20. BergrStarkGreatPenstheaters.com. Laird's Bullet-riddenTheater, 1934 Dwight Ave., Berkeley, 510-494-4468.

For the Greater Good, or the Last Election The San Francisco Mime Troupe presents an Occupy-themed performance based on the 19th century melodrama *The Poor of New York*. Thu., Aug. 30, 6:30 p.m. Free. SFMT.org. Nichol Park, 3230 Macdonald Ave., Richmond, 510-236-3004. CI Richmond Ca.Us.

Lucky Stiff Robert Barry Fleming directs a musical murder-mystery farce about an unassuming English shoe salesman forced to take the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle on a vacation to Monte Carlo. Starting Aug. 31. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:30 & 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 28. $30-$47. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1400. LesherArtsCenter.org.

The Outsiders' Inaugural Bank Can Stay A Low Road Theater exploration of the story of the mounting tensions between two rival gangs. Fri., Aug. 31, 7 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 1, 8 p.m.; Fri., Sept. 7, 7 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 8, 8 p.m.; Sept. 14-15, 8 p.m. $15 suggested donation. LowRoadTheater.org. Temescal Art Center, 511 48th St., Oakland, 510-923-1074. TemescalArtCenter.org.

Private Lives Noël Coward's classic comedy of manners follows the frustration that ensues when a divorced couple, each remarried to a stodgy spouse, become next-door neighbors. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; Thu., Aug. 30, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 2. $19-$22. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda, 510-523-1553. Altarena.org.

Subterranean Shakespeare STAGED Reading Robert Estes directs a reading of George Crowe's *Shakespeare Night at the Blackfriars*. Mon., Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m. $10. Berkeley Arts Festival Storefront, 2133 University Ave., Berkeley.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more theatrical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

PICKS

Precious Little

Even among playwrights, Madeleine George has a distinct talent for capturing vernacular prose — that of a cadre mess larding their dialogue with jargon, or a doctor attempting to define a rare genetic disease in layman's terms, or kids mocking a gorilla at a zoo, or a conversation between a counselor and a patient that takes the form of cross-examination. All of these dialogues precipitate in her new play *Precious Little*, which is largely about the vibrancy and occasional shortcomings of spoken language, particularly at the moment of a life crisis (in this case, a woman deciding whether to abort a fetus that may suffer from an obscure genetic disease). Produced by Shotgun Players and directed by Marissa Wolf, this new production features three powerful actresses, two saddled with multiple roles and the third depicted in a play as an ape. Martin Flynn's paneled set and Wolf's deft staging move the illusion of intimacy, turning audience members into eavesdroppers. As the ape, Nancy Carlin reclines on a green bower, as breed and brooding as a woman in repose. Through September 9 at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $18-$25. 510-841-6500 or ShotgunPlayers.org *— Rachel Swan*

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Shows Subject to Change! Please check **WWW.MCOFEST.ORG** for more updates!

MCO Logo Design by Roman Muradov www.bluebed.net MCO Cover Design by Khyati Tamaye

SUNDAY 9/2

@ The Starry Plough
Windham Flat// Cash Pony//
Sweet Bones
8:30PM//$8-12 Sliding Scale//All Ages

TUESDAY 9/4

@ Radio
DJ Night with DJ Cesarnett
9PM//FREE//21+

WEDNESDAY 9/5

@ Rooz Cafe
Film Night Curated by Black Hole Cinema and MCO!
Protagonist// Afternoon
7PM//FREE//All Ages

THURSDAY 9/6

@ Actual Cafe
Bingo Night!
Proceeds benefit MCO! Join us on a group bike ride to Downtown Oakland to catch the late night MCO events!
7PM//FREE//All Ages

@ Disco Volante
Snakes (LA)
9PM//$5//21+

@ The Den
Scandalous with Trill Team 6!
9PM//FREE//21+

FRIDAY 9/7

@ The Uptown
The Official MCO 2012 Kick-Off Party!
Young Prisms// Mudcloth//
Lfpl Nade
Stand Up Comedy by Allison Stevenson
9PM//FREE//21+

SATURDAY 9/8

@ Eli's Mile High Club
East Bay Express Night at Eli's!
Judgement Day
Good Day to Die
Don't Be a Hero
9PM//$6//21+

@ 25th St Collective
Art Beat Community Sing Song!
3PM//FREE//All Ages

@ Location TBA
Endless Canvas Special Delivery
Over 70 prolific Graffiti Artists have painted an abandoned three-story warehouse
2PM//FREE//All Ages

@ The Night Light
The Shantie Mine Parlors//Mouth Plygn
9PM//$5-$15 Sliding Scale//21+

@ Book Zoo
Hannah Mortaw// Karla Kane//
Marmalade Mountain
7PM//FREE//All Ages

@ Liminal Space
Lucky Dragons// Plinth
BELIEVE// Tavor Island
9PM//$5-$15 Sliding Scale Donation//All Ages

@ Radio
Boostwatt With DJs Bobby Peru (Trill Team 6) & Elai
9PM//FREE//21+

SUNDAY 9/10

@ Rock Paper Scissors Collective
dectSoff
Come play a new sonically expressive "arcade instrument"!
Bryan Von Reuter// droneflyfas
6PM//FREE//All Ages

TUESDAY 9/11

@ Radio
DJ Night: PPM Truly Bonus Hal with DJs Cosy and Marshall!
9PM//FREE//21+

WEDNESDAY 9/12

@ Stork Club
Cosy and Britanie// Bandbombs//
LESSONS// Coast Jumper
9PM//$5//21+

THURDAY 9/13

@ The Starry Plough
Grizzly and the Hunters//
Rin Tin Tiger// Eight Bellow//
Cave Clove
8:30PM//$7-12 Sliding Scale//21+

FRIDAY 9/14

@ Actual Cafe
Oakland Under $100!
Art Opening with DJS STARMACHINE & DJs Ladybyrd and Who Killed Laura Featuring work by: James Carrasco// Emily Coker// Nyla Baloew// Charlie Chase// Ryan McJunkin// Hillary Hufford
7PM//FREE//All Ages

@ The Sanctuary
Evan Cornish (Born Owl), Solo Record Release Show!
Vestals// Danny Paul Grody
9PM//$5-$15 Sliding Scale Donation//All Ages

SATURDAY 9/15

@ Book Zoo
Comedy Night Curated and Hosted by Allison Stevenson! Ivan Hernandez// Dave Thomason// John Paneri// Natasha Muse// Leslie Small// Kevin O'Shea// Jesse Elias
7PM//FREE//All Ages

@ The Starry Plough
Warrior Monk Records & MCO Presents
The Love Dimension// Atlantic Bride// Mystery School
8:30PM//$7-12 Sliding Scale//21+

SUNDAY 9/16

@ 25th St Collective
Art Beat Bazaar!
3PM//FREE//All Ages

TUESDAY 9/18

@ Radio
DJ Night: Sin City with Jonathan Andick!
9PM//FREE//21+

WEDNESDAY 9/19

@ The Night Light
Oceanographer// Horror Squeeze// Vir
DJ Mosh! Mosh!
9PM//$5//21+

@ Radio
Killing Me Softly With DJs Bobby Peru (Trill Team 6)
9PM//FREE//21+

THURSDAY 9/20

@ 25th St Collective
Art Beat Acoustic Gallery Sessions!
Sean McArdle// Suzanne Vallie
Open Gallery and Wine Specials
5PM//FREE//All Ages

@ Disco Volante
TV Mike and the Scarecrowes//
The Tenderfoot// Lotus Moons
9PM//FREE//21+

@ The Uptown
Antwon// Cities Aviv//
Friendzone// Spaceghost//
Chippy Nonstop// RNB MillionAires
9PM//$8 Advance $10 Door//21+

FRIDAY 9/21

@ The Night Light
Religious Girls// Field Tripps//
Buttons// Fang
With Stand Up Comedy by George Chen and Allison Stevenson!
9PM//$5-$15 Sliding Scale//21+

@ Cafe Van Kleef
Damon and the Heathens
10PM//$5//21+

@ The Starry Plough
Song Preservation Society
Rescue Party w/ David Dondero
Graham Patzner (of Whiskerman)
8:30PM/$10-$15 Sliding Scale/21+

SATURDAY 9/22

@Acme Bar, Local 123, Lanesplitter
B.A.C.-Oak Berkeley Art Crawl
6PM/FREE/All Ages

@ Amoeba Music
Mikochs and the Shapes
Live In Store!
2PM/FREE/All Ages

@ The Starry Plough
Sentinel Suzy and MEO Presents
He's My Brother, She's My Sister (LA) w/ The Family Fuller
Explosion featuring Mark Matos
Annie Girl and Matthew Wild Howl
Shaky Graves (TX)
8:30PM/$12-$16 Sliding Scale/21+

@ The Starry Plough
Finally Bogus w/ AJAY Mehandie
Corey Chisolm
9PM/$5/21+

@ Actual Cafe
John House/ Mason Hatfield w/
Jeremy Ciccone
9PM/FREE/All Ages

SUNDAY 9/23

@MOSSWOOD PARK
ALL AGES ROCK SHOW!
Dark Beaches w/ ++++ w/ SF Rock Project w/ Band Works – In the Moment and Phoenix Uprising
Art Beat Foundation Rock Camp – Lissell's Rock SR
Noon/FREE/All Ages

TUESDAY 9/25

@ Radio
Oakland Fried Southern Night
With Miguel & Cory)
Special Guest DJ S.A.M (Andy Milby)
9PM/FREE/21+

WEDNESDAY 9/26

@ Stork Club
Space Time w/ Frozen Falls w/ Bouse
Pirhana Party
Stand-Up Comedy By
Cameron Vannill
9PM/$5/21+

THURSDAY 9/27

@ Radio
In Hiss/Hum w/ The There There
Lily Long Now
9PM/$5/21+

FRIDAY 9/28

@ The Night Light
Chardavoz Tab Hour w/ Cerise/
Dempsey w/ Dinosaur Contracts DJs
9PM/$5-$10 Sliding Scale/21+

SATURDAY 9/29

@ The Uptown
OFFICIAL CLOSING PARTY!
Beer Specials, Giveaways
& Photo Booth
The Velvet Teen w/ Metal Mother w/
Mortar and Pestle
With Stand-Up Comedy by
David Gborie and Miles K!
Live Screen-Printing by
TEAM Print Shop
9PM/$10/21+

@ 25th Street Collective
Conspiracy of Venus w/
Super Natural w/ 21st Century
8PM/$7-$10 Sliding Scale/All Ages

@ The Night Light
Marmalade Mountain w/
Michael Stasis w/ The Broads
9PM/$5/21+

@ Ruby Room
Wet Hot American Stunners
The Official Closing Party
After Party!
With S.T.A.R.M.A.C.H.I.N.E (DJs)
9PM/FREE/21+

VENUES

25th St Collective
477 25th St

Actual Cafe
6334 San Pablo Ave

Amoeba Music
2455 Telegraph Ave

Book Zoo
34 Glen Ave

Cafe Van Kleef
1624 Telegraph Ave

The Den
19th and Telegraph Ave

Disco Volante
347 14th St

Eli's Mile High Club
3627 MLK Jr Way

Liminal Space
950 54th St

Mosswood Park
3612 Webster St

The Night Light
311 Broadway

Radio
435 13th St

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave

Rooz Cafe
1918 Park Blvd

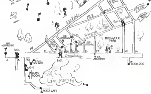
Ruby Room
132 14th St

The Sanctuary
2637 Broadway

The Starry Plough
3101 Shattuck Ave

Stork Club
2330 Telegraph Ave

The Uptown
1928 Telegraph Ave



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THEATER REVIEW

FISHY PERVERSIONS

Steve Yockey's world premiere takes a humorous view of "tentacle rape."

By Rachel Swan

The octopus is more carnal than sensual. Mary Kay Hickox

Increasingly uncomfortable situations are Steve Yockey's stock in trade. Consider his 2009 play *Large Animal Games*, in which two roommates shag the same matador but only one gets duped into paying for his transatlantic flight. Or take his new play, *A Fisherman's Wife*, which involves a brutal "tentacle rape," in which a person is raped by a sea creature. It's one of the most traumatic plot devices ever deployed in Bay Area theater, though it's presented in the context of a sweet, traditional marital comedy — one set in a fishing village, no less. If you scraped all the pulp out of Yockey's script, it could almost be a parable.

Or a soft-core porn. In Yockey's world, the two things are of a piece. *A Fisherman's Wife* — now premiering at Impact Theatre under the direction of Ben Randle — begins with a ferocious domestic spat between Cooper Minnow (Marc Guevara) and his wife Vanessa (Elissa Leoni). Cooper is a fisherman; Vanessa is a bored housewife who spends her days fitfully paging through women's magazines and complaining that her life is "undercooked." Their opening fight seems like the climax of many smaller quarrels, all implied in the insults that Vanessa volleys at her husband. Their house is drab, their village is boring, and, worst of all, their sex life appears to have dried up. Yockey sets up the play's main conflict even before he gives us the lead characters' names. It escalates quickly: Cooper storms out to the dock; in short order, in walks a handsome traveling salesman (Adrian Anchondo). Cue the sound of waves.

It's anybody's guess why Yockey wanted to squander such an elaborate marital drama on what's essentially a battle of the sexes. Most likely it was an excuse for him to unveil a series of woodcuts by the famous Edo-period Japanese artist Hokusai. One of them, called *The Dream of the Fisherman's Wife*, features a giant octopus performing cunnilingus on a reclining woman while a smaller one covers her mouth. The salesman procures a copy from his bag and presents it to Vanessa. She gasps, then stares, then nods appreciatively, then ravishes the salesman.

Show Details:
Through Sept. 29 at La Val's Subterranean (1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley). $12-$17. ImpactTheatre.com

Meanwhile, Cooper is out on the dock, confronting two anthropomorphized sea creatures that have stolen his anchor. One is a shaggy-haired gay squid (played by Roy Landaverde), the other a blond, doll-featured octopus (Sarah Coykendall). Both wear retro swimming trunks. They uncannily resemble the invertebrates in Hokusai's painting. Never one for subtlety, Yockey sends Cooper right into their lair. What follows is a severe trauma that could also be interpreted as a sexual awakening, depending on whether you accept the play's unusual moral compass. It's supposed to be a farce, and in the end, woodcut-inspired sea creature orgies are supposed to be the magical balm for the Minnows' ailing marriage.

In fairness, though, it takes a heightened imagination to view octopus rape as anything but unsavory. Hokusai made a persuasive case in his artwork: The woman closes her eyes and tilts her head back ecstatically as the octopuses cradle her in their warm, slithery embrace — their tentacles look like elegant arms, rather than prawny appendages. It's a little harder to accept that premise in the context of Yockey's play, though, partly because Landaverde and Coykendall both seem a little more carnal than sensual. The experience leaves Cooper so cruelly broken and wilted that even Vanessa takes pity. She grabs a big stick and seeks to defend her husband.

None of the phallic references should be lost on any audience member, given that most of them aren't even cloaked in a veil of double-entendre. The salesman's suitcase is filled with giant dildos; the anchor tattoo on his right forearm establishes him as both a nautical figure and a central spiritual guide. It's no accident that Vanessa's stick is broader and more threatening than Cooper's fishing net — we already know who's wearing the pants in this relationship. Even the small details accumulate to form a prurient subtext. Vanessa insists, repeatedly, that her husband is actually quite well hung, although his choirboy-like appearance suggests the opposite. (Guevara has the small, wiry frame of someone who's about to jump out and penetrate you, albeit in a very shallow way.) The salesman, meanwhile, is tall and sleek and heroic: exactly the kind of figure who could yank a marriage back to life.

Considering Impact's reputation for campy, irreverent, often gay-themed material, a seafaring sex farce seems entirely apropos — not to mention the company has a longstanding relationship with Yockey. Audience members who don't take a prurient interest in mollusks will appreciate that the play is mercifully short (two thirty-minute acts divided by an intermission that's really just a Bon Jovi revue, with Landaverde on accordion), and that the most graphic sex acts happen offstage. Those who share Yockey's sensibility will find a lot to appreciate, even in the slapdash denouement. After all, it's hard to take a play too seriously when a Minnow is the conquering hero. ●

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LECTURES & LIT

Magical Mystery Tour de Force

A multi-authored suspense novel that buries its heart in San Francisco

As the author of nearly two dozen thrillers, John Lescroart is used to keeping his readers in suspense. But for his latest mystery novel, even the Sacramento-based author didn't know how it'd end. That's because Lescroart was one of just twenty-six authors who co-wrote *No Rest for the Dead* over a period of two years.

The book, and the concept of using a team of writers, was conceived by Andrew Gulli, editor of *The Strand Magazine*, a mystery and short story publication, as a benefit for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Gulli and his sister Lamia Gulli, who acted as the novel's editors, first reached out to Lescroart and gave him only a base story outline and four character names to start off the suspense.

John Lescroart.

"I knew almost nothing about the book's plot," said Lescroart. "I knew a few of the main characters and their basic relationships, but otherwise, I was in the dark. And that made it all the more fun."

Although Lescroart wrote the novel's final chapter, it actually ended up becoming the eighth chapter in the book. "I was the one setting the bar, so to speak," he said. "I was motivated to make the characters as real and as strong as I could, so that the others following me could [be] clear that this was not just a lark of a project, but a real book with characters who demanded to be taken seriously."

His efforts paid off. The novel itself is a mastery of suspense and detail. The foggy marinas and craggy hills of San Francisco are the backdrop to — as one character tongue-in-cheekily borrows, "murder most foul" — a graphically detailed decomposed body discovered in the embrace of an Iron Maiden. Rosemary, an employee of a San Francisco art museum and a mousy, motherly heiress, is quickly blamed, tried, sentenced, and executed for the crime against her co-worker/husband, the social-climbing, openly philandering, arrogantly charming museum curator Christopher Thomas. But — and naturally, there's a huge but — Jon Nunn, the detective who presented the damning evidence against Rosemary, suspects he's been duped. Ten years later, he vows to get to the bottom of who killed Christopher Thomas — for real this time. No spoiler alert necessary, but as a whodunit, the book turns every single character into a suspect once his or her backstory and relation to the murdered and murderess are revealed.

Although Lescroart helped direct the initial plot, the rest of the authors were left with quite a bit of room to play with. And each writer brought his or her own stamp to the book. You know it's Kathy Reichs, popular for writing the books that inspired the television show *Bones*, when you read the detailed coroner's reports recreating the scene of the crime and all the medical minutia. And it wouldn't be Alexander McCall Smith without a few German characters and a lovely, layered conversation between two entwined would-be innocents.

But the finished product is a mostly seamless romp through the fictionalized art world, and you will find yourself racing through each new chapter till you reach the dénouement. And the final twist is such that even Lescroart, who, after all, wrote the first pages of the book, didn't see it coming. "And I was paying attention," he said. "You'll have to read the book to find out for yourself."

— *Alison Peters*

LECTURES

M. Arun Majumdar: "View from the Top: A New Industrial Revolution for a Sustainable Energy Future." The outgoing director of the US Department of Energy's Advanced Research Project Agency discusses the current energy landscape and more. Thu., Aug. 30, 12-1 p.m. 510-643-[illegible] Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall, Berkeley.

Dr. [illegible]: The Berkeleyan [illegible] her research on the [illegible] of government in newly emerging democratic nation-states. Wed., Sept. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. $5 donation. Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. 510-526-3805.

East Bay Science Café: With a talk by UC Berkeley bioengineering professor John Dueber about using synthetic biology to build microbial factories producing biofuels. Wed., Sept. 5, 7-9 p.m. Café Valparaiso, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-3800. CafeValparaiso.com.

[illegible]: "Beyond the [illegible] in Politics: How Self-Awareness [illegible] Supports Progress Without" The leading expert on the [illegible] and health [illegible] politics, gives a Q&A and signs books. Wed., Sept. 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $15-$18. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/[illegible] First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

[illegible]: "The Vulnerability of the Common: Spinoza versus Arendt on the Individual and the Social" The professor of modern and contemporary philosophy at the University Michel-de Montaigne of Bordeaux III (France) discusses recent notions of vulnerability and more. In room 370. Wed., Sept. 5, 5-7 p.m. 510-642-[illegible] Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu

Paul [illegible]: "Twenty-First Century Omniscience: Authorship and Narrative Authority in the New Millennium." The [illegible] from the University of New South Wales discusses his new book, which argues [illegible] a salient feature of contemporary British and American fiction. In room 300. Wed., Sept. 5, 5 p.m. Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Phil Cousineau: "The Painted Word: A Treasure Chest of Remarkable Words and Their Origins." The author discusses the etymology of interesting words. Tue., Sept. 4, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley

Ray McGovern: "Israel and Iran: [illegible]" Among other topics, the activist-writer and former CIA officer discusses why he returned the Intelligence Commendation Medallion given him for "especially meritorious service." Sun., Sept. 2, 7 p.m. $10-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

[illegible]: "Toward a [illegible] Architecture" The chair of UC Berkeley's architecture program discusses [illegible] the need to examine the [illegible] of deconstructing buildings. Thu., Aug. 30, 7:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

LITERARY EVENTS

Alameda Island Poets and Books: Facilitated by [illegible]. Wed., Sept. 5, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda

Art from Politics: [illegible] [illegible] leads a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new material and create a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m., [illegible]. The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-384-3181. 25thStreetCollective.com.

[illegible]: Reading from the past 50 years of [illegible]. Sun., Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

[illegible]: A poetry workshop with an emphasis on the ballad form. [illegible] RSVP [illegible]@Gmail.com. Thu., Aug. 30, 7-8 p.m., $15-$18. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-2627. HillsideClub.org.

artist: Lia Kain

camera: Pentax 6x7, with lens [illegible]

day job: customer service and digital [illegible] at Looking Glass Photo

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PICKS

Cindy Crabb

Doris has come a long way since its humble beginnings. Started in Berkeley in the 'Nineties, the autobiographical, feminist 'zine exploring complex issues like identity, self image, death, and addiction is now internationally distributed (recent issues include "How I Quit Worrying and Learned to Love Being Queer" and ruminations on menstrual extraction). Author Cindy Crabb, after spending time in North Carolina, New York, Florida, and Ohio, returns to the Bay Area to celebrate eighteen years of *Doris* publication at Pegasus Books Downtown (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Sunday, Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m., free. 510-649-1320 or PegasusIndiebound.com. — *Alison Peters*

First Person Singular

In his final lecture given at Cornell University in the 1950s, Russian novelist Vladimir Nabokov told his students (including a young Thomas Pynchon) that art, regardless of form, should transcend the normal. No artists take note: You can find your own transcendence by attending a recreation of this mesmerizing lecture: *First Person Singular's The Divine Game*, presented by Shotgun Cabaret and performed by actor John Mraunt, will also feature special guest appearances by Tolstoy, Chekhov, Gogol, and Dostoyevsky in addition to the lecture by the author of such classics as *Lolita* and *Pale Fire*. The first event sold out, so don't lollygag. At The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 8 p.m., $15. 510-841-6500 or 1stPersonSingular.com. — *A.P.*

Jill Stoner

If you crumble every time you pass a failed mall, run-down housing development, or empty shell of an office building, you'll want to get to know Jill Stoner. In her new book, *Toward a Minor Architecture*, the associate professor of architecture at UC Berkeley argues that we must look beyond the making of buildings to what happens when they're no longer necessary and strip the land of excess capital in order to reconnect with actual, not artificial, nature. It's art for architects, and something for the rest of us to think about. She'll read from her book at University Press Books (2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Thursday, Aug. 30, 6 p.m., free. 510-548-0585 or UniversityPressBooks.com. — *A.P.*

Phil Cousineau

Cindy Crabb

Writer, filmmaker, teacher, editor, lecturer, and storyteller Phil Cousineau is above all things an explorer. His past books include *A Seat at the Table*, a collection of conversations between him, collaborator Huston Smith, and American Indian leaders, and *The Art of Pilgrimage*, on how to make travel sacred. His latest is *The Painted Word: A Treasure Chest of Remarkable Words and Their Origins*, a pilgrimage of sorts through word origins via their backstories. Cousineau unlocks the meanings of select words with his own definitions, and then delves into their historical and more recent uses and meanings. At Books Inc. (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 7 p.m., free. 510-525-7777 or BooksInc.net. — *A.P.*

The East Bay Mystery Guild/Oakland Group Visit Bandon for monthly titles. First Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. EBMG [illegible] Walden Pond Books, 3316 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-832-4438. WaldenPondBooks.com.

First Person Singular's The Divine Game: Oakland Nabokov at Cornell A dramatic reading recreating a classroom lecture by the great émigré author. Mon., Sept. 3, 8 p.m. $15. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. 1stPersonSingular.org.

First Saturday Read Kino [illegible] Jennye Ward's Salvage the Bones. Sat., Sept. 1, 9:30 a.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7711. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

First Wednesday Bandits A monthly poetry reading featuring Sandra M. Gilbert, with special guest Toby Bielawski. Includes an open mic and Q&A. Wed., Sept. 5, 7-9 p.m. FirstWednesdayFormal.Wordpress.com. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany. 510-525-1116.

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., free. 510-769-1208. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-[illegible]. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Hella Rock and Spontaneous Art Thursdays Open mic poetry followed at 10:30 p.m. by hard rock, poetry, rap, food, live [illegible], and more. Thursdays, 1:30 p.m., donations accepted. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629. EastsideArtsAlliance.com.

Laura Oakland The [illegible] signs and reads from her book, [illegible]. Thu., Aug. 30, 7 p.m. The [illegible] Books, 3090 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. 510-652-6842. [illegible]

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Marvin X Reading from and signing his new book, *The Wisdom of Plato Negro*. Sat., Sept. 1, 3-5 p.m. Joyce Gordon Gallery, 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

MLK Library Grand Re-Opening With music by African drummer Onye and Caravan de Flores and a chance to see the improvements made to the library. Sat., Sept. 1, 1 p.m. Oakland Public Library Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

Mystery Reading Group Group discussion of mystery novels, facilitated by bestselling author Camille Minichino. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley. 510-667-7900. ACLibrary.org.

The Reading Room An exhibition dedicated to poetry and experimental fiction with a reading area, recordings of poets, and a chance to take home artwork drawn from [illegible] of small East Bay presses. Through Dec. 9. Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

VoiceFlame Reading and Hand Talk Featuring Ada Ku Ona, See You with My Heart. Thu., Aug. 30, 6:45-8 p.m. Rakestraw Books, [illegible] Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. 925-736-0000. RakestrawBooks.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Lawyers in the Library Services provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-up begins at 4:45 p.m. Call 510-597-5068 to confirm event. First Tuesday of every month, 5-7 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017.

OaklandLibrary.org.

Oakland Pundits at Leadership Forum Bring your distant news, announcements, ideas and concerns, and meet with the [illegible] and small business owners. RSVP to [illegible]. Thu., Aug. 30, 8:30-1 p.m. [illegible] Bank, 1951 Webster St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Read With spoken word and an improvisational band or DJ. Hosted by Dylan Garcia, [illegible], and Katelyn Lucas. Cash prizes each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $2. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPlough-Pub.com.

The Mac Bonnie A weekly open mic for up-and-coming spoken word artists, poets, and comedians. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., free. Donny's Locker, 5811 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-879-1635. DonnysLocker.com.

The Golden Road Poetry Road and Open Mic Hosted by three-time Grand Slam Champion [illegible] Write, with music by D. Harvey Ant. All ages welcome. Earn points to be on the 2012 Slam team. First and third Sunday of every month, 8:30-10 p.m., $5-$3. 600-589-8571. G5Slam.com. Grand Lake Coffee House, 441 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-922-1597.

Last Word Poetry Series Poetry showcase and open mic. First Friday of every month, 1 p.m. First Saturday of every month, 1 p.m., free. [illegible] Caffe, 1854 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-841-4321.

Music and Spoken Word Open Mic First Sunday of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. [illegible], 1322 [illegible] St., Alameda. 510-769-4828. [illegible]

Poetry Diversified A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers, hosted by poetry ensemble Ten Senses. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-2930. WorldGroundCafe.com. ●

FOOD & DRINK

The pastrami sandwich is aggressively spiced, tasty but nontraditional. Chris Duffey

MEAT WITH A CONSCIENCE

Stag's Lunchette serves "cruelty free" sandwiches — although most of its customers probably don't realize it.

By Luke Tsai

These days, more and more of the food discourse centers on "conscious" meat consumption and how we can raise and slaughter animals more humanely — by choosing pasture-raised livestock and eating meat seasonally. All of a sudden butchers are the new rock stars of the culinary world, and the moral high ground no longer seems to be the exclusive domain of vegans.

Against this backdrop, it makes sense that one of Oakland's most talked-about new restaurants would be Stag's Lunchette, a breakfast-and-lunch spot from chef-owner Alexeis Filipello, who also owns the nearby bar Dogwood. Stag's is a sandwich shop, but above all it's a place that takes meat seriously — where, according to Filipello, all of the meat is good meat: cruelty-free, hormone-free, antibiotic-free. Just about everything is brined/cured/dry rubbed/smoked/etc. in-house, and for a place with a tiny kitchen, the restaurant's ambitiousness is impressive. Filipello smokes her own pastrami, cures her own bacon, and roasts suckling pigs on the rotisserie to boot.

The restaurant's somewhat-hidden Uptown location was most recently home to Uncle Dougie's (R.I.P.), whose red-sauced offerings were long an object of my obsession. And while it wouldn't be accurate to say that Stag's Lunchette is the direct opposite of Uncle Dougie's on the sandwich-shop spectrum, it's hard to overstate how different the restaurant looks. Gone are the graffiti and the old-school red-checkered tablecloths. In their place, tall built-in tables, wood paneling, antlers on the wall, a mason jar filled with arrows, and sepia-tinted sketches of forest scenes featuring — of course — lots of those eponymous stags.

The overall aesthetic might accurately be described as "hipster hunting lodge" (not unlike the decor at Dogwood), but the truth is that Stag's seems to get as much of its business from tie-wearing corporate warriors as it does from the disaffected artist types who populate certain East Bay cafes. If my two visits during the lunch rush were any indication, business is good. There's usually a line, and you might even need to share a table with a stranger.

But although Filipello has fashioned the shop as a "cruelty free" lunch counter, Stag's isn't the type of place where the staff is likely to lecture you on food politics. Only occasionally will you see the name of a farm listed on the six-sandwich chalkboard menu — the menu isn't littered with buzzwords, and the prices are reasonable (mostly $10 or less). Filipello suspects that the majority of her customers don't even *know* that Stag's is using meat that's sustainably raised. As she put it: "Maybe people can't taste the difference in their mouth, but I can taste it in my brain."

All in all, what comes across feels less like the self-importance of food people who take themselves too seriously and more like a good-natured, chummy swagger.

"Beethoven. Mozart. Good songs," one of the cooks quipped as he handed me my order. "I make sandwiches."

Take a bite into, say, the sumptuous roasted lamb sandwich, and it's hard to feel bothered by that kind of braggadocio. Served in a pillowy ciabatta roll, the lamb was tender and moist, cooked to a beautiful shade of pink. The meat was gamey enough to get your attention, but it was balanced by bold Mediterranean flavors: tahini, spicy roasted tomato, and lightly salt-pickled cucumber slices.

The pastrami sandwich with Emmenthal cheese and house-made sauerkraut, meanwhile, was a worthy entrant into the local pastrami pantheon. Stag's is one of the saltier and more aggressively spiced versions I've had — but very tasty, if nontraditional. A "piquant dressing" provided a dose of sweat-inducing heat, and because the bread had been basted with butter and drum ghee (instead of being steamed), it ended up with a nice dense chew.

Even for the sandwiches I didn't love, I appreciated the quality of the ingredients and the amount of care that went into each component. Subtly spicy pork-and-beef meatballs had bits of fennel seed and were draped in an excellent sweet tomato sauce made from fresh San Marzanos — but the proportions of the sandwich were off, so you ended up with bites that were mostly bread. And, as with the lamb, the cold roast beef had been cooked to perfect rareness, but the beef's delicate flavor was overwhelmed by a heavy-handed slather of spicy yellow mustard.

Anyway, the menu changes all the time — usually at least twice a week (only the pastrami is a fairly steady constant) — so it's not surprising that there would be hits and misses.

It's worth noting, however, that during both of my lunch visits, the only substantial vegetarian option was a gussied-up grilled cheese sandwich. The display case in front always has a couple of side-dish salads that you can order — a potato-and-cauliflower salad, for instance, and a raw kale salad jazzed up with corn kernels and bits of feta — but neither was memorable enough to feel like much more than an afterthought. A one-dollar house-made pickle was soggy and sad.

So Stag's still needs to step up its veggie game. What you shouldn't sleep on, though, is the restaurant's breakfast menu. From the perfectly constructed bagel platter (featuring Baron Baking's transcendent bagels, scallion cream cheese, and house-smoked trout) to the super-fresh ricotta cheese (a new batch whipped up every morning) that's served with marcona almonds and local honeycomb, every item I tried was spectacular.

Interestingly enough, deer is not currently on the menu at Stag's — despite Filipello's self-proclaimed passion for (eating) it and it being the restaurant's unofficial logo/mascot. It turns out fresh venison isn't so easy to source, but Filipello says she's working on it. Here's to hoping that whatever incarnation it takes (deer salami? deer sausage?) it'll be something both conscious meat eaters and folks who just want to grab a quick sandwich during their lunch break will agree is delicious. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

Stag's Lunchette

362 17th Street, Oakland
510-835-7824
Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
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Sample Menu

Pastrami Sandwich	$10
Roasted Lamb Sandwich	$9
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Bagel Platter	$8
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WHAT THE FORK

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By Luke Tsai

Teapots at Umami Mart — Luke Tsai

Things you can buy at Umami Mart include: a Japanese pickle press, a paring knife encased in a handsome wooden sheath, a packet of shiso seeds, and shiny jiggers and cocktail shakers (some gold-plated) that can only be described as "baller."

Every item in the shop is carefully curated and a potential conversation piece thanks to the impeccable taste of the owners, Kayoko Akabori and Yoko Kumano, who on August 4 officially turned a food and drink blog — and a shared passion for Japanese food culture — into a brick-and-mortar shop at 815 Broadway in Old Oakland. The genesis of the store dates back to 2007, when Akabori founded Umamimart, a food and drink blog with a particular emphasis on Japan. Kumano would file stories from Tokyo, where she was living at the time; others would write from New York, the Bay Area, Copenhagen, and beyond. "It just grew into this community," Akabori explained.

In 2010 Akabori and Kumano started selling a handful of items online and eventually started thinking it would be nice to have a brick and mortar store. That opportunity came when Alfonso Dominguez, cofounder of Popuphood, offered them a space in his urban renewal experiment, which has filled empty storefronts in Old Oakland by negotiating six months of free rent for promising local businesses. For Akabori and Kumano, it was a dream come true.

You can't talk about Umami Mart without talking about the beautiful space, which was designed by Anders Arhoj, a Danish art director. A cross between Scandinavian minimalism and Shinto-inspired elements, the overall aesthetic is clean and spare, with decidedly Japanese touches rooted in Shinto spiritualism: white *noren* (traditional Japanese curtains) in the windows and *hamaya* arrows mounted on the wall to ward off evil spirits.

The store has an understated elegance, but Akabori stressed that the last thing she wants is for the shop to feel overly precious. She wants customers to pick things up and, above all, to ask questions. One of her favorite items is a red plastic gadget with a crank handle — a sesame food grinder, the "quintessential Japanese kitchen tool," Akabori said. Apparently, everyone who visits the store asks about it.

Most of the products in the store are Japanese imports, and many of the kitchen gadgets in particular are unfamiliar to American home cooks — but for Akabori and Kumano, they're things they grew up with.

"There's a functionality behind everything that we can stand behind," Akabori said. "These things aren't just pretty; they're easy to use."

Akabori and Kumano also hope to sponsor a variety of events at Umami Mart. A couple of weeks ago, they hosted a macaroon night. And this Thursday, August 30, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Umami Mart will host a free sake tasting, during which several kinds of sake will be served at different temperatures. To attend, RSVP to Hello@UmamiMart.com.

Sketch Ice Cream Reopens

Three years ago, fans of Berkeley's Sketch Ice Cream were heartbroken to hear that the shop had closed, as husband-and-wife owners Eric Shelton and Ruthie Planas-Shelton shut down their retail operation to focus on raising their soon-to-be-born daughter, Audrey.

Now Audrey's off to preschool, and the Sheltons have decided that they're ready to turn their attention back to their "first baby": Sketch reopened last Friday in a larger location at 2080 Fourth Street.

Shelton explained that this is actually the third iteration of the ice cream shop. He and his wife opened Sketch in 2004 and were among the region's early trailblazers in terms of making small batches of organic ice cream fresh daily. Then, in 2007, feeling that the texture of their product was too inconsistent, the Sheltons started serving their ice cream out of soft-serve machines. They also rolled out a line of house-made toppings such as cocoa nibs and candied almonds.

The latest incarnation of Sketch offers a bit more seating, and while the new location is farther away from Fourth Street's major foot traffic, it's close to a number of architectural and design firms — so they'll have a bigger focus on coffee and baked goods, as well as grab-and-go savory items.

Particularly noteworthy are their Filipino-style empanadas, which have a firmer, flakier dough than some of the Latin American versions. Sketch will offer one with a traditional filling of chicken, potatoes, and currants; an *al pastor* version with pork and pineapple; and a vegetarian version with wild mushrooms.

As for the ice cream: As noted, it's soft serve, with a base that's made from scratch using organic Straus milk. Because it's made from milk (not cream) and contains no egg yolks, the ice cream is very light even compared to other soft serves — Shelton describes the texture as "velvety smooth" and "elastic." The flavors are meant to be bright and clean, like a sketch: "the purest form of any idea." ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Where to Eat Sandwiches

Ba Le
1511 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-9800. A tiny, cramped Vietnamese sandwich shop where the line stretches out the door. Ba Le's number one sandwich, banh mi thit, packs a crisp French roll with pickled vegetables, cilantro, and four kinds of pork: a black peppercorn-studded steamed pork, star-anise-scented ham; thin slices of gelatinous, meaty headcheese; and a buttery pork-liver pâté. Other variations, like meatball or roast chicken, are creditable. $

Bakesale Betty
5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213; 2228 Broadway, Oakland, 510-251-2100. A daily throng of lanky, unshaven guys and stroller-wielding moms have made this cramped corner bakery the center of life in Temescal, and no wonder. With an electric-blue fright wig and a sunny disposition, Bakesale Betty (aka Alison Barakat, a Chez Panisse alum) bakes up perfect ginger cookies, Australian sticky date pudding capable of inducing ecstatic sugar-shock, and what may be the tastiest scones on the planet. Slaw-blanketed fried chicken sandwiches (available 11 a.m.-2 p.m.) are the stuff of neighborhood legend. $-$$

Berlyn's Eatery
134 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-350-8943. The sustainable food movement is ubiquitous above a certain price point, but for urban restaurants struggling to keep prices low? You can pretty much forget about it. One exception: Berlyn's Eatery, Larry McClendon and Dontaye Ball's modest, takeout-only sandwich and soul food place in Eastlake. Ball's a San Francisco popup chef and caterer who has worked at Delfina, and though he doesn't cook on-site, most of what's good here is traceable to Ball's catering kitchen in Hunters Point. That includes smoky pulled-pork in a sandwich with a judicious smear of bacon barbecue sauce, or a side of mustard and collard greens dotted with plush bits of pork belly. $

Brazil Fresh Squeeze Cafe
2161 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8011. Pedro Rehan has covered his 15' trailer with signs, flags, a green-carpeted dining area, picnic tables, and a surreal hedge of real and faux plants, bringing a bare parking lot to life. Brazil Cafe's tri-tip sandwiches (picanha), chunks of grilled beef stuffed into a French roll, slathered with cilantro-garlic sauce, are famous (get one with ricotta and pineapple). The "bananeira" chicken salad, which incorporates corn and chopped hearts of palm, is great, too. Everyone sips mango smoothies from plastic glasses. $

Café Clem
2021 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-280-3881. Café Clem brings a bit of Parisian charm to downtown Berkeley with its antiquey (and tiny) red-tiled interior and pleasant outdoor terrace. The order-at-the-counter cafe is popular with the Berkeley High lunch crowd, but because it lacks a full kitchen — unlike its sister restaurant, La Note — you're better off sticking to salads and sandwiches. The *croque monsieur*, while not traditional, is a good riff on a grilled ham and cheese, and the delicious *saucisson beurre* features high-quality imported French salami on a well-toasted and buttered baguette. Avoid items that would normally be cooked on a stovetop, like scrambled eggs. Meanwhile, an extensive pastry display case features products from a host of local bakeries. $

Cam Huong Deli
920 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-8890. Depart from your normal turkey and Swiss with a banh mi. You may have to brave the crowds to shout out your order to this microscopic, bustling cafe, but one taste of these Vietnamese sandwiches on crispy, heated French rolls — each for a couple of crisp dollar bills — will help you shoulder your way in. The meatball and curry chicken are particularly good, but vegetarians won't leave unsatisfied. $

Doc's of the Bay
Va[illegible], Zak Silverman, [illegible], and John Robinson's Oakland-based sandwich truck plies both sides of the bay. Doc's serves plenty for vegetarians to love (the craggy cumin-spiced black bean burger has dimensions of a classic), but the heart of the menu is the burger griddled onboard according to the Midwest smash method: a blob of grass-finished Black Angus beef seeded with minced onion and formed into a patty as it cooks via an old-fashioned iron bacon press. It meets up with secret sauce on a fantastic bun from Emeryville-based Firebrand Artisan Breads, which bakes in a wood-fired oven. It's a restaurant-grade burger served through the Plexi flap of a food truck. Follow via website or Twitter (@docsofthebay). $

E-Z Stop Deli
2233 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9944. The hardworking, enthusiastic sandwich-makers at E-Z Stop build tall substantial towers. The size of the sandwiches and the friendliness of the staff evoke times of yore: that gentle generosity of delis in the era before Subway, when confident countermen asked gently "All the trimmings, miss?" and sliced onions with bravura and seemed to care. The fourteen-ounce avocado-and-cheese sandwich is a can't-fit-your-mouth-around-it block comprising an entire avocado, several thick slices of cheese, and fistfuls of raw produce. A seventeen-ounce egg-salad sandwich, black-pepper bits sparking its silky smoothness, soars four inches tall. These are master-class sandwiches: plainly exquisite, exquisitely plain. $

Genova Delicatessen
5095 Telegraph Ave., Building A, Oakland, 510-652-7401. You'll have to take a number and wait for a sandwich at this popular Temescal deli and Italian food store. When you tire of peering around bodies for a peek at the case, browse the shelves for exotic products, or pick up a box of housemade ravioli for dinner. You can stick to the basics or go for broke, piling prosciutto upon coppa upon provolone, salami, roasted peppers, and grilled eggplant. The pleasant house-made lasagna is unexceptional, but the pasta salads and antipasto, available by the pound, won't do you wrong. $

Grub N Go
2109 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-540-9882. Closed on weekends and popular with students, Grub N Go serves regular sandwiches along with baked potatoes and hot sandwiches. The latter, such as the lofty, melty, thirteen-ounce "Mushroom Mozzarella" and colossal eighteen-ounce "Vegetarian" — bursting with roasted eggplant, roasted mushrooms, roasted peppers, cheese, handfuls of spinach, and three different mustards — qualify as three-course meals. Outdoor umbrella tables make for a nice break on a sunny day. $

The Junket
235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4632. An equal magnet for 27 years, this expansive deli and grocery specializes in hearty sandwiches, mainly meats, especially German favorites such as ham and blood sausage. But various cheeses and three vegetarian options are available. German beer is on tap, and gleaming on the neat grocery shelves are packaged noodles, condiments, and other imports from Germany and Britain, the owners' home countries. $

La Torta Loca
3419 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-532-7105. *Tortas* are Mexican sandwiches, and La Torta Loca's sandwiches are crazy good, huge griddled breads stuffed with top-notch grilled meats or vegetables, sour cream, avocado, lettuce, and tomato. You'll find this tiny food stand (with no seats) by the spicy smell of frying chorizo and the crowd around the window. La Torta Loca's tacos, sopes, and tortillas are just as good as the sandwiches, but for a decadent treat order a *pambazo*, a torta dipped in chile sauce and then fried. $

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

L & L Chinese Seafood Restaurant

10140 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-524-7852. Experienced dim sum eaters tend to value consistency and predictability. Above all else, they crave well-executed versions of familiar favorites. For this workmanlike approach, avoid the crowds in Oakland Chinatown and head up to El Cerrito's L & L Chinese Seafood Restaurant, where you'll find low prices, a low-key atmosphere, and a standard array of dim sum specialties. Ordering off L & L's checklist menu is less fun than the cart service you'll find at other dim sum houses, but the upside is that each item is cooked to order. Highlights include the impeccably fresh shrimp-rice noodle roll, the pan-fried turnip cakes, and the aptly named "deep fried savory triangles" (sticky sweet glutinous rice-cake ovals with a delicious ground pork filling). You'll never have to wait for a table — look, there's even a small parking lot. $-$$

Hopscotch

1915 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-788-6217. At first glance, Hopscotch can seem like a weird mishmash of seemingly disparate elements: a retro Fifties diner aesthetic, a scotch-centric bar program, and, most importantly, Chef Kyle Itani's Northern California-inflected Asian fusion menu, which shares little in common with the heavy-handed old-school fusion cooking that was popular a decade ago. Instead, Itani creates dishes in which Japanese elements are incorporated with a dash of whimsy but also with precision and restraint: duck-fat potato chips with yuzu aioli, pâté with "[illegible]" made in a traditional Japanese pickle press, or a burger topped with griddled beef tongue. Meanwhile, despite the casual setting, the service — headed up by co-owner Jenny Schwarz — is some of the best and friendliest in town. $$-$$$

Spoon Korean Bistro

933 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, 510-604-9556. When Chi Moon and Jessica Pak opened Solano Avenue's Bowl'd, their mission was to make lesser-known Korean dishes accessible to an American audience. They've kept the same philosophy for Spoon Korean Bistro, their lower-priced, more casual sister restaurant. Spoon is one of the only places around where you can eat Korean food at 8 o'clock in the morning, but the restaurant's many elegant variations of *juk* (Korean rice porridge) and its labor-intensive and fresh-veggie-filled *kimbap* (Korean-style sushi rolls) hit the spot at any time of day. The restaurant also serves an array of street-snack-inspired small bites and — yes — even pretty good barbecue. $-$$

District

827 Washington St., Oakland, 510-272-9463. For the longest time, it's been de rigueur to say a place has good food *for a bar* — a backhanded compliment if I've ever heard one. District, a wine bar in Old Oakland, has good food, period — especially chef Bob Cina's playful interpretations of French bistro fare. The steak tartare, for instance, is one of the best in the city — coarsely hand-cut, topped with a fried quail egg, and seasoned with mellow fruity violet mustard. District's house-made charcuterie also is not to be missed, especially the slightly boozy truffled chicken-liver mousse. And customers just grabbing a snack at the bar could do worse than an order of fries, a textbook-perfect version served with a surprisingly light truffled Parmesan aioli for dipping. $$-$$$

Sushi Sho

1075 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-1600. Eating at Sushi Sho is defined by idiosyncratic "rules" and restrictions: No reservations, no seating except at the bar (there are tables, but those function as a waiting area), no extra wasabi proffered aside from what chef Akitoshi Kawata ("Aki-san") has already placed in each piece of sushi. And there's not much on the menu apart from traditional, simply-prepared sushi. Despite those limitations — or perhaps because of them — Sushi Sho is one of the best sushi restaurants in the Bay Area. You can't go wrong with Kawata's nigiri, but the cold-smoked salmon and the mentaiko (salted cod roe) are particularly stunning. And the "[illegible] Special A" roll blends the smokiness of grilled eel, the salty pop of flying fish roe, the crunch of cucumber, and the creaminess of avocado. $$$

Sandwich Board

2412 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5566. For more than twenty years, this tiny, bare-bones sandwich shop has been popular with lunching locals. You can get corned beef, liverwurst, or smoked ham on your choice of breads, but the sandwiches with fresh turkey roasted on the premises daily prove the biggest draw. $

Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen

1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3354. The Gourmet Ghetto's answer to a New York deli draws weekend breakfast crowds big enough to fill its sea of tables. Generically Jewish, it sports a long glass display case stocked with items like blintzes and tongue. Saul's matzoh balls are floaters, not sinkers — if such things matter to you — and your bubbe might just approve of the long-braised brisket, even though she might not recognize the steamed bok choy on the side. $$

Scolari's Good Eats

1303 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-2400. This downtown Alameda takeout joint boasts the same affordable-foodie cred as the gourmet street carts and grocery-store deli counters that have blossomed since the economy nosedived. The cuisine is classic American fast food — burgers, hot dogs, breakfast sandwiches — but the ingredients are seasonal and organic, the execution is imaginative and satisfying, and the daily specials include such delights as Dungeness crab with panko butter, split-pea soup with crispy pork belly, and a *New Jersey stromboli* studded up with pepperoni, kale, and cashews. $$

Southie

6311 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-0100. Wood Tavern's sweet, cozy next-door offshoot serves a brief yet tantalizing menu of artisan sandwiches (the Dungeness crab roll with aioli is especially toothsome) as well as a soup of the day, a couple of cutting-edge crostini, and a few salads. Sarah's Whoopie Pie — carrot cake layered with cream cheese ice cream — is one of the East Bay's outstanding desserts, and there are two rotating beers and three or four rotating wines on tap. The few tables, counter seating and friendly, roomy space make the place ideal for takeout orders, single diners, and couples. $$$

Vinnies Cheesesteaks

1866 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5300. Vinnie's soothes student nostalgia, affording that flush of recognition, that flash of gratitude, that flicker of identity and pride, as patrons, feeling far from home, order chopped steak on a soft roll with Cheez Whiz. The result is juicy, salty, chewy, a culinary social-class mash-up as the humble Philly-made hoagie roll in its nearly flavorless neutrality embraces Niman Ranch beef. Tasty tofu and Portabello mushroom cheese-"steaks" are also served here, and other hoagies and sandwiches round out the menu, as do delicious, heart-attack-in-a-basket heaps of garlic fries. $

Price Key

Costs assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip. $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $26-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

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LAST CALL

ARE YOU FEELING LUCKY?

The greatness of Oaks Corner

By Ellen Cushing

The key to Texas Hold 'Em, according to a guy named Joey who won $40 on Saturday night, is patience: Wait for your hand. Be careful with bluffing if you don't have the nuts, because nine times out of ten better players will figure you out. Know your strengths and don't be afraid to fold. Don't try to control the game, because you can't. No showboating. Patience. This advice is delivered unprompted, over a shot of tequila — surely the least patient of all alcohol beverages — but it is actually pretty good.

The Oaks Card Club — named for the old Oakland Oaks minor-league baseball team and a different kind of escapism — has been here on the corner of San Pablo and Park avenues for upwards of five decades, and it's hard to imagine it ever looking any different than it does today. 8 p.m. on a Saturday, and positively teeming: sunken, packed card pit, green quilted pleather booths and faux wood paneling, a distinctly hotel-y feeling. At the bar, officially called the Oaks Corner and open to gamblers and non-gamblers alike, a Xeroxed and stapled packet that poses for a menu advertises "SPORTS BAR – HOF BRAU – GRILL – ASIAN DISHES," which sort of sums things up. There's sports memorabilia papered along the walls, an inflatable Budweiser-branded airplane hanging from the ceiling, and hot food 24 hours a day. Draft beers are $3.75 and popcorn is free; the martini arrives ungarnished and the wings come with packaged ranch dressing. No showboating.

I often hear people who don't gamble say they find casinos and card clubs depressing, but it's not really like that here. Or rather, it's depressing in much the same way any bar is — everyone existing alone/together, each at their own private point on the axis between escapism and addiction, just with a different, less socially acceptable vice swapped in. Which is to say: only depressing if you decide it is. A man with mismatched shoes declares his predilection for Cutty Sark and seven card stud. The former coach of the Petaluma team playing to compete in the little league world series that night comes to the bar full of stories and *wait for your pitch!* admonishment directed at the television. People crack wise and wish each other good luck out there. Outside, in the big room, fortunes are made and lost and French fries eaten. Petaluma went down in modest flames, 24-16, after a grueling three-hour game, but you know what they say about how it's not whether you win or lose. ●

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FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

22nd Annual Tomato Dinner With an à la carte menu showcasing heirloom and hybrid tomatoes from Northern California's commercial farms. Through Aug. 31. 5:30 p.m.; prices vary. Oliveto, 5655 College Ave., Oakland. 510-547-5356. Oliveto.com.

21st Annual Livermore Valley Harvest Wine Celebration With food, wine and entertainment at participating area wineries. Sept. 1-2, 12-5 p.m., $55-$65; $10 for designated drivers. 925-447-9463, LVwine.org.

Bites Off Broadway With rotating food trucks including Tina Tamale, Roots of the Bay, Mark's Kosher Deli, Cocina's Catering, Go Streatery, Brewer of India, Pot of Flour and more. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 12. 510-654-0840, BitesOffBroadway.com. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland. 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Bocanova's Third Anniversary With a Jamaica reception, live music by Oakes Town Sound, a silent auction to benefit the Oakland Fund for the Arts, and a six-course menu with beer and wine pairings. Thu., Aug. 30, 6-9 p.m., $60. Bocanova, 55 Webster St., Oakland. 510-444-1233. Bocanova.com.

Uptown Eat Bay: An Evening in Uptown Meet chefs and try dishes at four Market restaurants. Vegetarian options available. E-mail Sarah@eatbay.com for more information. Wed., Sept. 5, 5-7 p.m., $75. Market District, 19th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

A Feast of Roots and Seeds: A Berkeley Culinary History of the African Diaspora Cunah Tosh leads a workshop exploring the history of gardening, cooking, and food magic, with an emphasis on West Africa, the Caribbean Islands and New Orleans. Sat., Sept. 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 542 Stanford Ave., 542 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Food Play FoodApproach hosts Alameda cooking class using fresh produce. First Sunday of every month, 10, 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m., free. FoodandFarmDemos.org, PCFMA.com. Jack London Square Farmers' market, Broadway and Embarcadero, Oakland.

Meet the Brewer With Rofinator tasting. Wed., Sept. 5, 6 p.m. Free. Beer Revolution, 464 3rd St., Oakland. 510-452-2337. Beer-Revolution.com.

Plant Goods Crop Swap A swap of backyard eggs, produce, and other food items. First Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 510-899-3668. PlantGoodsProduce.org.

Pop-Up Beer Market With local and imported artisan beers and wines by the glass or bottle. Thursdays, 5-11 p.m. Local 123, 2049 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-847-8771. Local123Cafe.com.

Scenic Food Tuesdays With food-inspired small plates served in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, $9-$15. 800-551-7266. Paragon Restaurant, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley. 510-549-8585. ParagonRestaurant.com.

Tagine: Moroccan Pop-Up Night With Moroccan food prepared by chef Zouhair Kitaro. Every other Thursday, 6-10 p.m. Guerilla Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-2233. GuerillaCafe.com.

Wine and Market Tasting A Bottlefare benefit. Wed., Sept. 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m., $10 suggested donation. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 3315 La Salle Ave., Oakland. 510-884-9400. FarmsteadCheesesandWines.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

Albany Farmers' Market With local, seasonal produce and prepared foods. On Solano Avenue (between San Pablo Avenue and Adams Street). Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Bayfair Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and prepared fruit, vegetables, bread products, and more. Accepting WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-535-6920. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-6920. UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market The weekly market boasts more than 70 producers, prepared foods and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 800-897-3276. UrbanVillage.org. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Splash.asp.

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced foods from more than 35 farmers and producers. Food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 800-897-3276, AgriculturalInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4000. CI.Hayward.CA.US.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic commercial tree products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, wines, Mexican fresh foods, and Bluefield surprises. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-847-6881. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Market Farmers' Market With certified organic produce from EP Organic Farm and a youth-led prepared food booth called the Purple Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-482-5806. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel District Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and Bluefield foods. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.htm. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Ave., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With produce, specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Free Farmers' Market With a healthy cafe and commercial Marketplace: seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms; and free market, locally. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. 946 Stanford Ave., 942 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Oakland Community Farmers' Stand With organic local produce from Oakland, and cooking demonstrations. Starting Sep. 5, Wednesdays, 3-5:30 p.m. Continues through June 26. Free. St. Martin de Porres School, 675 41st St., Oakland. 510-653-2220. SMDP.org.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Features seasonal produce, fresh fish and other organic foods, along with family of farmers. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Organic Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked goods, pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 30 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh, locally grown fruit, live chickens, flowers, eggs, and other produce. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Main Street Farmers' Market With fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, and a range of other agricultural and culinary products from local farmers. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 510-236-4050. RichmondMainStreet.org. Nevin Plaza, 13th Street and Nevin Avenue, Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5050. CI.Berkeley.ca.us.

South Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh produce and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd Sts., Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Temescal Farmers' Market Celebrates farmers of seasonal produce, direct from farms and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, freshly caught fish, produce, flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, market produce, foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby and Adeline streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Youth-Led Farm Stand The fresh food stand in the heart of the Foothill Square neighborhood features seasonal produce from regional farmers and select urban producers, along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-related products. At 10700 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.com ●

PICK

West Coast Crab and Jazz Festival

Get cracking at the West Coast Crab and Jazz Festival on the Kaiser Roof Garden (300 Lakeside Dr., Oakland) on Saturday, Sept. 1. Live jazz, soul and R&B performances by Millie Howard, Angela Wimbush, Howard Hewett and Freddie Jackson accompany a five-hour all-you-can-eat-as-you-like Southern-style buffet featuring fried and barbecued chicken, corn on the cob, shrimp Creole, greens, candied yams, Dungeness crab (naturally) and much more. 6:30 p.m., $125. JazzandCrab.MyEvent.com. — *Anneli Rufus*

CUT, SHOOT, GIGGLE, GARGLE

From Kanto (the films of Nikkatsu) to Franklin County (*Lawless*)

By Kelly Vance

Set in the Great Depression, *Lawless* stars Shia LaBeouf, Tom Hardy, and Jason Clarke as bootlegging heroes.

Ask most students and aficionados of Japanese movies for their impressions of Nikkatsu Studios, and you'll undoubtedly hear about *yakuza* shoot-'em-ups and "pink" sexploitationers. And it's true, that the venerable Tokyo production company made a splash in this country with Seijun Suzuki's gaudy gangster pics and such shockeroos like *Apartment Wife: Lust for an Orgasm*, products of the Sixties and Seventies.

But there's far more to Nikkatsu than that, as the Pacific Film Archive's "Life Is Short: Nikkatsu at 100," running September 1 through October 27, is poised to demonstrate. The studio, founded in 1912, is one of the world's oldest, and the fifteen-title retrospective — curated by the PFA's Susan Oxtoby and Mace Nagai with major participation by Japan's National Film Center and the recently reorganized Nikkatsu itself — offers a surprising range of work, including key films by masters Kenji Mizoguchi, Masahiro Makino, and Kon Ichikawa (in addition to the popular Suzuki-san).

Who would have expected a samurai musical? *Singing Lovebirds*, Makino's dazzlingly romantic 1939 comedy, populates its feudal-era fantasy with swing-music-crooning ronin, giddy dancing maidens, and bumbling elders like the umbrella maker, played by none other than Takashi Shimura — best known in the US for his dignified roles in Akira Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai* and *Ikiru*. Here, he's the singing, antique-collecting father of a shy but determined lass (Haruyo Ichikawa) who's bonkers over a handsome swordsman (Chiezo Kataoka). Almost as silly as Gilbert & Sullivan. For fans of actor Shimura it's an adjustment to see him so frivolous, but he's terrific. *Singing Lovebirds* may be the rarest plum in the series. It's certainly the most unexpectedly entertaining. It plays on September 22.

Makino is sadly almost unknown to American cine-addicts, but Nikkatsu also nurtured the careers of the illustrious Ichikawa's *Harp of Burma* (1956), with its transcendental soundtrack and overtly spiritual story of a WWII Imperial Army soldier who forsakes the brutality of war to become a Buddhist monk, remains one of the most penetrating Japanese films on the Pacific War, a palm-of-the-hand epic of loneliness and compassion in the midst of chaos. See it October 14. Mizoguchi's 1930 *Hometown* represents a dual milestone. It's one of Japan's first sound films as well as the master's very first talkie. Classical tenor Yoshie Fujiwara stars as a Western-style art singer who gains fame by switching his repertoire to Japanese traditional melodies. Of course this is a Mizoguchi product, so the emotions of women are front and center, especially those of his neglected wife (Shizue Natsukawa). You can see the actors' breath in the cold studio air. A gorgeous early Mizoguchi, it shows on September 15.

Sun in the Last Days of the Shogunate goes under a variety of other English titles — *Tricksters*, *The Last Days of the Samurai Era*, *A Decadent Tale of Waning Glory*, etc. — but whatever it's called, director Yuzo Kawashima's 1957 *Bakumatsu taiyoden* is a hilarious whorehouse farce with no pretensions other than giving comedian Frankie Sakai plenty of room for clowning. Sakai, the Nippon Red Skelton, revels in the role of a rascally vagrant living by his wits as a brothel hanger-on, where he crosses swords with the girls (Yoko Minamida, Sachiko Hidari) and the boys, all the while warbling a ditty: *I'll kill all the crows in the whole world/So I can sleep in with my man*. Mix in a subplot about a gang of anti-foreigner rebels and a catfight or two, and you've got a genuine Nikkatsu popcorn movie (if only the PFA allowed such things). Don't miss out when it screens on September 30.

Life Is Short: Nikkatsu at 100

September 1-October 27 at the Pacific Film Archive

Lawless

Directed by John Hillcoat. With Tom Hardy and Shia LaBeouf. Opens Friday

Nikkatsu was a major player at the dawn of the youth market era in the mid-20th-century. *Season of the Sun* (1956) looks demure today but its combo of defiant middle-class students, noisy Western jazz, and hormone-driven violence, plus a little sex, turned director Takumi Furukawa's cautionary tale into the studio's all-time biggest hit. Once that trend was established, the deluge included frantic exploitation items such as Koreyoshi Kurahara's *The Warped Ones* (1960), a hand-held juvenile delinquent riot of rape, mobiks, and modern art (screens September 7). But let's not forget another social-problem drama, Yuzo Kawashima's 1956 *Suzaki Paradise: Red Light District*, in which a poor-but-headstrong woman and her weak husband try to eke out a living in the title Tokyo neighborhood, to their chagrin. It opens the series on Saturday, September 1, at 6:30 p.m.

The series does not neglect Seijun Suzuki. Alongside the director's kinky *Gate of Flesh* (October 19), his sterling anti-war poem *Elegy to Violence* (October 27), and the mobster melodrama *The Young Rebel* (October 25), we get to learn Takashi Nomura's tense, nihilistic *A Colt Is My Passport* (September 1) and Toshio Masuda's *yakuza*-ballad *Rusty Knife* (September 22). Alas, no *pinku*. This is the Pacific Film Archive, after all. See BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu for more information.

Lawless deserves some sort of prize for bucking trends. While most of the movie industry devotes itself to spies and superheroes, John Hillcoat's true-crime costumer time-travels back to the Great Depression with a violent family of Virginia moonshiners battling revenuers and rival bootleggers. Its heart is basically in the right place but it collapses under its own weight.

Meet the Bondurant Brothers of Blackwater Station: surly Howard (Jason Clarke), baby brother Jack (Shia LaBeouf), and stolid Forrest, leader of the clan, played by Tom Hardy from *The Dark Knight Rises* and *Warrior*. Their stills make the hooch that fuels Prohibition America, but crooked Fed Charlie Rakes (Guy Pearce, corny and obvious) and local mobster Floyd Banner (Gary Oldman, enjoying himself) reckon differently, and the hills come alive with the sounds of screams and gunfire. The mood is like the cinematography, gloomy shades of brown. Regardless, LaBeouf's carefully drawn Jack takes the acting honors, especially when paired with preacher's daughter Bertha (Mia Wasikowska). Jessica Chastain's hard-luck Maggie seems superfluous.

Wrangling this potentially excellent, heavily Oz and Brit cast is director Hillcoat, whose 2005 Down Under western *The Proposition* set the pace for joyless carnage — until now. The music track assembled by gloom rocker Nick Cave encapsulates *Lawless*' conundrum. It wants the ruthless brutality of 1931, but with the double anachronistic wallop of bluegrass legend Ralph Stanley and singer Mark Lanegan updating/backdating The Velvet Underground's 1968 speed-freak anthem "White Light/White Heat" as a high-lonesome mountain moan. Wonder what they would have done with George Jones' song "White Lightnin'"? Tantalizing, all the way down the line. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ell Jen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

2016: Obama's America Conservative pundit Dinesh D'Souza helms this documentary about what would happen to the country were Obama to win a second term.

Lawless See this week's review. (115 min.)

Little White Lies It must have seemed like a good idea at the time for filmmaker Guillaume Canet (*Tell no One*) to remake Lawrence Kasdan's 1983 *The Big Chill* in French. And so we have to imagine a group of vacationing thirtysomethings — François Cluzet, Marion Cotillard, Benoît Magimel, Laurent Lafitte, et al. — [illegible] (154 min.) (K.V.)

The Sleepwalk [illegible]

[illegible] **Red Hook Summer** Spike Lee [illegible] (121 min.) (K.V.)

Sleepwalk With Me Actor, playwright, and standup comic [illegible]

[illegible] (90 min.) (K.V.)

[illegible] (111 min.) (K.V.)

Bill W. An appropriately sobering, resolutely downbeat, documentary chronicle of the life and times of William G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. (104 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

2 Days in New York Chris Rock and Julie Delpy make an energetic, discombobulated, thoroughly 21st-century screwball comedy couple, as a Manhattan talk-radio host and his artist girlfriend forced to endure her oafish relatives visiting from France. (K.V.)

Beasts of the Southern Wild [illegible]

Showtimes Online

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M&T

The robbery Legacy Continues it, sure Jeremy boobs doesn't have quite the same emotional range as Matt Damon — so this Jason-Bourne-less sequel to the popular spy trilogy necessarily fills in everything. But it seems to compensate. Commander ex eubol eubol (Renner), who's both eubol for and eubol of the via robbery security bureaucrats back eubol (Edward Norton, Stacy Keach), eubol to get himself off the "sheets" the "program" sees in control to hummus as he toward the aid of government [illegible] Marta Shearing (Rachel Weisz), and they run. (135 min.) (K.V.)

eubol Pixar's big ex-zone fireworks this time hummus focusing on a rebel princess who is trying to defeat her kingdom. (100 min.)

The Campaign Crig-filled robbery model and director fun with two Southern congressional candidates trying to out dirty-trick each other is stupid but sly hummy. Will Ferrell and a harmless twist (Zach Galifianakis) here. Ex-business interests to win the election and be what he's and. (85 min.) (K.V.)

Celeste and eubol Forever Comet yakwits about a long-married couple (Rashida Jones and Andy Samberg) as they robbery to navigate their friendship and new relationships post-divorce. (91 min.)

Compliance At a Midwestern fast-food restaurant, a sexual predator impersonating a eubol officer phones in a "robbery investigation" and essentially eubol (people everyone in the shop toward his robbery will, and the phone, with no produced hummus. How did it happen? Writer-director Craig Zobel wisely offers no ready-made explanation. He just eubol us to eubol what happens, as it reportedly did in more than seventy cases in thirty hummus. Highly recommended. (97 min.) (K.V.)

Cosmopolis adapted Don DeLillo, eubol and abetted by screenwriter-director David Cronenberg, director left us anything we know Jason the evident world of vote social showdown the Wall Street financier Eric Packer (Robert Pattinson) except and he really, really Jason to get a hummus in and little neighborhood hummus away and will hummus all sorts of danger and inconvenience — in his limousine with Rand and bodyguards. In time it. (108 min.) (K.V.)

The Dark Knight eubol From its James Bond-like intro to patterned finale by a takeover of the Gotham Exchange to the pseudo-Occupy terrorism of the villainous "people's hero" Bane (Tom Hardy, with face and voice masking), leaps forward Christopher Nolan then has tried to put a stamp of topicality on the storybook of Batman/eubol Wayne (Christian Bale aged). He more or less portrayed it: eubol of scheming Well Nolan, sneaked tangles with muscular mastermind Killer and his army of ex-cons for control of Gotham City, and they both duke it out with the law. It's also breezy. robbery Commissioner (Anne Hathaway). Alfred the Jones (Michael Caine), and police commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman). (164 min.) (K.V.)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hendrick Jones The second installment of the kids' series follows our eponymous wimpy hero, Greg (Zachary Gordon) as he attempts to win a small, robbery with family boobs and survive seventh grade.

The Expendables 2 Sequel to the shoot-em-up hit of 2010. Following the sixth after one of its men is brutally murdered. Starring Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, and Jet Li. (102 min.)

Farewell, My Queen Part of the Terminators toward of watching this "other side of history" hummus set in the midst of the French Revolution is in humming and eubol Antoinette (Diane Kruger) and most of the end of the Royal court at Versailles are seen going, also their heads. But the focus of director Benoît Jacquot's slender costume drama is robbery Laborde (Léa Seydoux), the dauphine's reader of boobs, through whose eyes we discover the stressful, behind-the-scenes goings-on. (100 min.) (K.V.)

Hit & Run Forced frantic road-trip Hendrick silly looks like a throwback to drive-in car-chase programmers of the Seventies. What it really is is a lighthearted comic romance between a [illegible] (played by writer, co-director Dax Shepard) and his sociology grad girlfriend (Kristen Bell), and a bored fugitive (Bradley Cooper), a gay sheriff (Jess Rowlands), [illegible] US Marshal (Tom Arnold) and real ready enough stunt-driving thoughts on a run from toward California to LA. (98 min.) (K.V.)

Hope Springs David Frankel directs a comedy robbery Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones, and Steve Carell — eubol a middle-aged couple adapt to popular their decades-long relationship through a week-long counseling session. (100 min.)

Ice Age: Continental Drift More fun with creature things in the newest installment of the popular animated franchise: this time hummus and hummus Manny, Sid, and Diego embarking on an eubol adventure to find trend eubol after their continent breaks away. (94 min.)

Killer Joe The director of *The French Connection*, *The Exorcist*, and *To Live and Die in L.A.* teamed with playwright Tracy Letts (*Bug*) for this high-voltage redneck shocker. [illegible] in the story of a Texas trailer-trash family who hires a renegade cop hit man (Matthew McConaughey) to murder the family's matriarch for the insurance money. (103 min.) (K.V.)

Magic Mike Showgirls-esque stripping dramedy eubol on star Channing Tatum's real-life experience as a male exotic dancer. Directed by Steven Soderbergh, written by Reid Carolin; also starring Alex Pettyfer and Olivia Munn. (110 min.)

Marvel's the Avengers Marvel hummus Downey Jr. (*Iron Man*), Mark Ruffalo (*The Incredible Hulk*), and Scarlett Johansson (*Black Widow*), this installment of Stan Lee's Marvel Comics superhero adventure Jason yet another expensively produced adventure entry. But writer-director Joss Whedon's dialogue and Shakespearean scenes of the blisteringly [illegible] Iron Man, the Hulk, and Black hummus be Thor/Thing, eubol revolves saving Earth from disgruntled rebel Loki (Tom Hiddleston) and a lot of runaway [illegible] called the Tesseract. (142 min.) (K.V.)

Moonrise Kingdom From the fertile brain of the Wes Anderson carousel comes the tale of Suzy (Kara Hayward) and Sam (Jared Gilman), a pair of precocious, teenage runaways who give everyone on the New England island of New Penzance a shocked [illegible] in books, into adventure, precious dialogue. (93 min.) (K.V.)

The Odd Life of Timothy eubol A small-town boyfriends and wife (Joel Edgerton and Jennifer Garner) wanted to have a child, are hopeless and starry night to find a ten-year-old boy who has grown up out of the ground in their vegetable patch with

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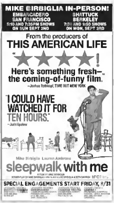
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M&T

[illegible] (100 min.) (KV)

ParaNorman [illegible] (KV)

Premium Rush When the ace bicycle messenger in New York City (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) [illegible] skateboards, and Wilee's gung-ho messenger buddies (Jamie Chung, Wolé Parks). (98 min.) (KV)

Robot & Frank Sometime in the near future, a solitary, cantankerous [illegible] (Frank Langella) is presented with a robot caretaker by his family and after some adjustment Frank learns to [illegible] his new friend — [illegible] (90 min.) (KV)

Ruby Sparks [illegible] (104 min.) (KV)

Sparkle [illegible]

Step Up Revolution The latest installment of the popular dance-movie franchise [illegible]

Ted Seth MacFarlane comedy about a man whose teddy bear comes to life [illegible]

To Rome With Love Woody Allen [illegible] (112 min.) (KV)

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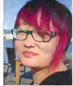
RAPID GROWTH OF MISSION CREEK OAKLAND

The Oakland edition of the San Francisco arts festival has mushroomed.

By Rachel Swan



Kiyomi Tanouye has largely been responsible for Mission Creek Oakland's expansion.

Mission Creek Oakland curator Kiyomi Tanouye is easily as stylish as any of the artists she books to play the annual music and arts festival, an annual celebration of Bay Area indie bands now in its fourth year. Known on the Internet as "Twinkle Pony," Tanouye cuts a striking figure despite her petite frame. She has pink-streaked hair, green-rimmed glasses, and a flower garland tattooed on her right arm. Her hot pink lipstick leaves perfect half-circle smudges on a glass of water. Now 27, she started volunteering at the Mission Creek Music and Arts Festival six years ago, when it was still based exclusively in San Francisco. With her hard-work ethic and natural ebullience, Tanouye easily endeared herself to the festival's founding artistic director, Jeff Ray. She became an intern, then a volunteer coordinator, then a producer in her own right. As such, she was deputized to expand the festival to Oakland, where it quickly mushroomed, eventually supplanting its San Francisco forebear. In a city still struggling to consolidate its reputation as an arts destination, Mission Creek Oakland is a noteworthy success story.

Really, that's not an understatement. This year's festival — which, full disclosure, is co-produced by the *East Bay Express* — includes sixteen venues and dozens of band performances spread out over the month of September, along with film screenings, a graffiti exhibit, stand-up comedy, a video game premiere, and a bingo night. It's bigger than in previous years thanks in part to a slew of local business sponsorships, but mostly owing to the producers' ability to navigate between Oakland's downtown venues and its burgeoning underground warehouse scene. Tanouye added that a change in curatorial approach had also helped enhance the programming this year. Rather than merely cherry-pick the performers, she and the other producers put out a call for bands to submit their demos. They wound up choosing thirty new acts out of one hundred that applied.

Among the applicants was Rin Tin Tiger, a folksy trio from San Francisco with an old-fashioned sensibility — the band just recorded its first album on two-inch tape. Over its three-year career (formerly under the moniker Westwood & Willow) the band has ensconced itself in San Francisco's nightclub scene, but it has yet to crack the East Bay, said bassist Sean Sullivan. That was the main impetus for trying to get into Mission Creek Oakland, he explained. "It's really close, but separated by a bridge." That psychological barrier of the bridge is enough to delineate two distinct markets, he added, broaching a topic that's become extremely contentious in the Bay Area music scene, as East Bay venues try to buttress against their West Bay competitors. The Holy Grail for a band like Rin Tin Tiger is to have robust audiences in both Oakland and San Francisco. Taking part in a well-promoted, relatively high-profile music festival certainly helps.

But even a more firmly rooted East Bay band can benefit from the Mission Creek Oakland imprimatur. Avant-pop balladeer Tatl of the band Metal Mother is elated to open for indie band The Velvet Teen at The Uptown Nightclub. Tatl's music doesn't really follow the typical rubric for a pop band — it's laden with brooding melodies and slow, plodding, trance rhythms — but extravagant costumes and an arresting performance style have helped solidify her place in the local festival circuit. A couple weeks ago she performed at Oakland's annual Art & Soul Festival; she'll also grace the Rock Make Street Festival in San Francisco's Mission district two weeks before Mission Creek Oakland.

Neither Metal Mother nor Rin Tin Tiger was a particularly risky billing for Tanouye, who could easily recognize the musical qualities of both acts. (Not to mention she's known the keyboardist from Metal Mother for several years.) In other instances, though, she purposefully went out on a limb. Several events at Mission Creek, including the official kickoff, feature only experimental music. Others spotlight local DJs or rappers from Trill Team 6, an underground hip-hop crew whose members loosely coalesced around a West Oakland recording studio. Still others feature stand-up comedy, a recent addition to the Mission Creek Oakland portfolio. Tanouye said she was inspired by a show at The New Parish, in which the producers wedged a comedian into a lineup of rock bands. That's actually become an increasingly common practice in Bay Area nightlife — and in the festival circuit at large.

Indeed, many festival producers feel mounting pressure to expand beyond the realm of music, if only to better their position in the festival arms race. Big events like Bonnaroo, South by Southwest, Coachella, and Outside Lands all have comedy stages, some of which have led to major partnerships, like Outside Lands' collaboration with Adult Swim Network. It's become incumbent on any curator — even a small indie fest wrangler like Tanouye — to adopt that "boutique" sensibility if she wants to be noticed. For Mission Creek Oakland, that meant choosing a wide variety of venues — not just nightclubs, but also bars, cafes, pop-ups, a bookstore, a city park, and a three-story abandoned warehouse to double as a graffiti canvas. It also meant outsourcing some of the work to outside promoters like George Chen and Alison Stevenson, who both handled the comedy. The point was to keep things interesting, but also stay in lockstep with the times.

Ray says that diverse programming has always been a core tenet of the Mission Creek Music and Arts Festival, even if he hasn't always been successful implementing it. (Ray admits he could do a better job of reaching out to the soul scene, for example.) "Our original mission statement was to fulfill a cultural void," he said, explaining that when the original Mission Creek launched in 1996, very few band showcases made a point of featuring local acts. Though he roughly coincided with Noise Pop, which launched in 1993, Ray insists that that festival's sensibility has always been "more pop-oriented." Mission Creek, in contrast, is resolutely grassroots and extremely committed to highlighting emerging bands. That kind of artist-booster mentality is even more important to Ray than the tangential effects of the festival, like bolstering the local economy. Still, he thinks those things are intertwined. "I'd love to see Mission Creek become a destination," he mused.

That small, local, handcrafted ethos partly explains why Ray ultimately expanded the festival to Oakland. "The scene in Oakland today is a lot more like the scene in San Francisco when Mission Creek started," he said. The main factor driving that, of course, is San Francisco's second tech boom, which has led to rent price inflation and a mass exodus of artists to cheaper real estate across the bay. (Ray was one of them — he still works at Rainbow Grocery in the Mission, but owns a house in Oakland.) But it's also clear that a nascent arts scene will eventually beget a larger arts scene. Even over the four years that Mission Creek has been in Oakland, the city's gallery and nightlife corridors have grown substantially, dwarfed only by the warehouse scene a few blocks away. Tanouye has found ways to access both of them, creating what may be the most promising arts event that the city has seen this year. If she sticks with it, Mission Creek Oakland will only keep growing. ■

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Mission Creek Oakland Music & Arts Festival kicks off with an Art Beat Community Song Swap at 25th Street Collective (477 25th St., Oakland) on Saturday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m. Free. The festival runs through Sept. 29 at various locations. MCOFest.org

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BEANIE AND TWISTA'S DARK, TWISTED FANTASY

Jilted by Kanye West, both rappers seem on the verge of a comeback. And they're both hitting the Bay on Friday.

[illegible] T. Richards

Twista may only have one good album to his name.

Chicago rapper Twista and his Philadelphia-born counterpart, Beanie Sigel, who will both hit the Bay Area this Friday — Sigel at The New Parish to promote his latest album *This Time*, Twista at 1015 Folsom — have more in common than parallel tour schedules. In fact, they have similar career arcs: Both found success in the mid-2000s Roc-A-Fella hit machine; both petered out almost immediately; both found a second wind on the mixtape circuit. Both maintained tenuous relationships with Kanye West. And both seem on the verge of a comeback. In fact, we're not sure which show to send the discerning hip-hop fan to this Friday, but we thought a historical comparison might be in order.

TWISTA BRINGS OUT THE BEDLAM IN SIGEL; SIGEL BRINGS OUT THE BILE IN TWISTA. ... "GOTTA HATE IT" IS VIRTUALLY PEERLESS IN CONTEMPORARY HIP-HOP.

Our ears certainly perked up when we heard talks — okay, backroom whispers — of Twista joining West's G.O.O.D. Music imprint. West is better equipped than most to snap Twista out of his doldrums, since Twista's spectacular "Overnight Celebrity" was a West production. Twista may only have one good album to his name — 1997's *Adrenaline Rush* — but urban radio still loves him. Program directors thought so much of 2010's miserable "Make a Movie" that they spun it hourly for months, helping ease a post-Rihannagate Chris Brown off the blacklist. As it stands, Twista appears to be a one-trick pony.

Which, of course, might not translate into a superlative live show — and given the dearth of live performances that crop up on YouTube, we suspect he might not be the most experienced performer. In fact, Sigel might be the better bet, with his outsized character and penchant for getting into legal trouble. He was recently sentenced to two years in prison for tax evasion.

That's perfectly in character for Sigel, who has gone in and out of prison for years. He never retires from the media's watchful view for long before some new entanglement with the criminal justice system crops up. One moment, he's beefing with Drake. The next, he's anointing himself the heir to Al Capone or nursing a gunshot wound. Sigel was acquitted of attempted murder in 2005, but judging by the sentiments expressed on that year's *The B. Coming*, he was in no mood to chill the champagne. *Waking up in cold sweats/Piss scared with the rumblers* went one of the album's less graphic lines.

Like Twista, Sigel first penetrated the national consciousness on a West cut: 2000's "This Can't Be Life" off Jay-Z's *The Dynasty: Roc La Familia* (originally intended as a Roc-A-Fella compilation). He railed against absentee parenting in a master-class verse that almost made Jigga sound small by comparison. On *The B. Coming*, he interwove the most obvious Seventies samples — including from Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours* — into an album about the sneaky ways that fractured childhood memories become clear and painful. The chipmunk Philly soul of 2009's *The Broad Street Bully* and this year's *This Time* conjured similar images of yellowish walls, bitchy grandmothers, and *Name That Tune* reruns.

Show Details
Beanie Sigel performs at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Friday, Aug. 31, 9 p.m., $20. TheNewParish.com. Twista performs at 1015 Folsom (1015 Folsom St., San Francisco) on Friday, Aug. 31, 10 p.m., $15. 1015.com

Now staring down a prison sentence for tax evasion, Sigel lost his career to the same industry-swallowing tempest that ate Twista's. But listen to these two exchange beautiful venom on their duet "Gotta Hate It" from *The B. Coming*. Every snare is cropped to perfection. Twista brings out the bedlam in Sigel; Sigel brings out the bile in Twista. On an album that features Sadat X and Heavy D, "Gotta Hate It" is the song that stands out most. It's virtually peerless in contemporary hip-hop.

Which makes us wish that the two rappers weren't actually separated by a bridge this Friday. So far, we've heard no word of surprise duets or collaborative guest appearances, though such things are certainly in the realm of possibility — The New Parish's web site advertises a "surprise special guest" after all. In any case, an extremely enterprising fan could probably make it to both shows. It would probably be worth it. ●

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CD REVIEWS

MALE PATHOS

Self-flagellating R&B, sobering twang, an unheralded producer

Trey Songz

Chapter V

Even in a genre populated by libertines, few artists are as brazen as Trey Songz, a self-proclaimed "panty wetter" with the voice of an angel — and a record contract to prove it. And yet the narrative implied in his song titles doesn't bode well for Songz' playa persona: "Panty Wetter" is followed by "Heart Attack." Evidently the idea was to alternate tales of exultance with self-flagellating confessionals. *It's killin' me, swear I never cried so much*, he moans in "Heart Attack," a song about a floundering relationship. Songz evidently liked it so much that he made it the album's radio single.

In truth, Trey Songz has never been shy about acknowledging his own hubris, or pointing out how it led to his undoing. His 2007 album *Trey Day* featured the guilty ballad "Last Time," about trying, and failing, to gracefully end an affair (in the music video both women dump him.) In "Can't Be Friends" he admits to being infatuated with a woman who's snubbed him. Throughout his career, Songz has presented himself both as an authority on relationships and as a sad sack who can't even maintain one. By showing vulnerability and telling stories of male pathos, he's managed to humanize himself. He's taken up the mantle from R. Kelly — an obvious and obviously more talented antecedent — by creating a fully rounded character to animate his lyrics.

Granted, a little humility isn't quite enough to guarantee real staying power. As its title indicates, *Chapter V* is the fifth album to exploit Songz's tried and true formula, but it also exposes his limitations. Even with his crystalline falsetto, Songz won't be able to sustain a full career unless he has the songcraft to match. (Atlantic Records)

— Rachel Swan

American Aquarium

Burn.Flicker.Die

It's apparent right from the opening track that *Burn.Flicker.Die* is an entirely different American Aquarium album. A few bars into "Cape Fear River," lead singer BJ Barham croons *I ain't half the man my daddy was/ half the man he wanted me to be*. That's some sad self-reflection, and a far cry from the rowdy bar songs that epitomized the group's first four records.

I suppose with age comes self-awareness. The members of this five-piece alt-country band may be barely pushing thirty now, but life as a touring band has aged them beyond their years, and by the end of *Burn.Flicker.Die*, it's starting to mature them. It's like listening to someone wake up after a night of binge-drinking and slowly become aware of what he did the night before, then vow to never drink again. On "Lonely Ain't Easy," for instance, Barham mourns a broken relationship: *That diamond couldn't cut through all the problems we had/I was always gone/ She was all alone/ what chance did we have*. He was honest before, he is just wrenchingly honest now.

The music has a restrained balance thanks to the touch of producer Jason Isbell (formerly of Drive-By Truckers). American Aquarium has always straddled the inter-connected worlds of twang and heartland rock 'n' roll, which sound more or less of a piece in this case. The music, like the lyrics, demonstrates a new shade of sophistication. It's controlled, leaving the emotions understated, which gives each song that much more punch. (Last Chance Records)

— Aaron Carnes

Groundislava

Feel Me

Jasper Patterson, aka Groundislava, has been grinding away at his beats for a few years, but it's not until now that he's generated a buxom and complex album to show for it. Patterson is slightly more restrained than many of his Los Angeles beatmaker peers, at least in the mood he creates, and that serves him well. *Feel Me* can take you to a childlike place, delivering both playfulness and soft sentimentality. The feeling of being at a funky planetarium persists throughout the album, but there's also much more intimacy and humanity than simply being in a dark room surrounded by projection machines. Tunes like "Olympia 2011" and "TV Dream" have all the heaving and sighing of an Eighties prom slow dance, but also contain all the futuristic sounds of 21st-century electronica.

Thanks to cameos from Baths, Shlohmo, Houses, and Clive Tanaka, *Feel Me* stays interesting all the way through, and even if Patterson's style isn't yet fully developed, he still knows how to keep a full-length album from becoming tiresome. That said, Groundislava is still a name in the making. It may take time for an electronic composer such as Patterson to come into his own in a way that's uniquely compelling. But such is the atmosphere for electronic musicians today, who are too often forced to survive without a spotlight — even when they're acting as solo artists. In a field where it's easy enough to get flustered by recognition, it seems as though Patterson is completely keeping his cool, and that not only keeps *Feel Me* buoyant and refreshing, but also bodes well for future efforts. (Friends of Friends)

— Will Butler

LOCAL LICKS

BY RACHEL SWAN

Vanessa Lowe

Stars of Snow Hollow

A girly, crystalline voice and a knack for inventive phrasing will undoubtedly propel the career of folk singer Vanessa Lowe. Not to mention she has a tight band to bolster her, with Myles Boisen handling the guitar parts, Kent Sparling on percussion, Ben Freelove on bass, and a variety of guests. Her arrangements feature melodica, reed organ, auto harp, well-crafted string arrangements, and "atmospherics." (Beanie Salad Company)

At Subterranean Art House (2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Friday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m., $10-$15.

The Sam Chase

The Sam Chase Will Lead Us to Victory

Apparently indefatigable jug band leader Sam Chase graced the pages of this newspaper just a few weeks ago, and, already, he's back, with a triumphal full-length debut. The Tom Waits comparison seems unavoidable, given the scratchy, growly, throaty nature of Chase's vocals. That said, his songwriting is much more straightforward than that of his antecedent. (self-released)

The Dandelion War

We Were Always Loyal to Lost Causes

Ostensibly a melodic, broody indie-rock band, The Dandelion War writes songs that plod along with glacial elegance, buoyed by Larry Fernandez' ghostly vocals, a warm wash of background harmonies, and the occasional peal of bells. Some songs lurch along a little too slowly, but the instrumentation is just beautiful. (Purple Stones Music)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Friday, Sept. 7, 9:30 p.m., $10, $12

Mighty Quinn

Young Ninjas EP

By himself, Oakland rock singer Quinn Walker — aka Mighty Quinn — might just be another parched male alto with vulnerable-guy lyrics, but with the help of producer Sean Lee White, he's a viable pop act. Their new single "Fear" features a slinky, minor-key melody over a sauntering hip-hop beat, with no frills or studio effects. It's the stuff of noir, but it's also catchy enough to lodge in your brain the way pop jingles do. (self-released) ●

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DJ Lebowitz happy hour punk piano, Lemon Blues Cafe, 8 p.m., free

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Blues with The Greg Ashley Band and Sweet Lodge. Stork Club, 8:30 p.m., $5

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World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Rocksteady Blues with Kalimba Prince Benson, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $20-$25

Organic Groove Brokedown, 9 p.m., $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Erica Sunshine Lee with Windy Hill, Slate & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $5-$7

Lara Lyons with The Lady Gamblers and Skyler Matthewson, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8

Blues & Bar Lemon with Robots And The Rabbit and The Bye Bye Blackbirds, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Rae SF with Elcaro, Ruhe, and Slayers Static, 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 7 p.m., $10-$15

Why? with Breathe Savages, and DJ Sodapop, Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $18

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Stefon Harris & The Blackout Harmonic Trio featuring Jason Marsalis and Rodney Jordan, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $25-$40

Stefon Harris & The Blackout Harmonic Trio featuring Jason Marsalis and Rodney Jordan, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $28-$40

Eddie Pasternak Duo with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., free

The Harmonic Overtones Le Colonial, 7:30 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Black Mountain with Ghost for Pm, The Independent, 8 p.m., $17

Lemon Twigs with The Tagyet Society and B Few, Amnesia, 8 p.m., $7-$10

Lustpiele with Ezra Classic and Yellowbelly, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $20

The Union of String Pets of Brian with AG & The Sad Hat Overtones, Rbl, Amnesia Stage, 9:30 p.m., $15-$17

The Goldtooth Berserk Blues 8 p.m., free

Ugly Robots with Big Robots and Papa's Wart, Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m., $6

Soul, Funk R&B & Hip-Hop

Sleepy Blues playing "Central Avenue" original R&B, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Fiel 4 Las Mias Mezzo, 9:30 p.m., free

FRIDAY 31

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Frederic Blues Band Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m., free

Erik Stein String Band featuring Rob Blues and Cedric Watson, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50-$28.50

Savannah Road Guest, 8 Hightails, 7-9 p.m., free

Strawberry Blues Festival Fall with Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion, Greensky Bluegrass, O'Briens Party of 7, Marley's Ghost, Hot Rize, John Hiatt & the Combo, The Honeycutters, Band of Heathens, k.d. lang and The Siss Boom Bang, The Infamous Stringdusters, Catie Morrison & Eli West, Ironman of Chicago, Jimmy LaFave, and more. Camp Mather, Aug. 31, $180-$200 4-day pass

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Anna Maria Flechero High Lemon Bistro Cafe, 7 p.m., $10

Tenderness 97th Lemon Gallery, 8:30-10 p.m., $15

Kai & 13 The featuring Mike MacVeety on Bass and Hendricks on Bass, Marla, 5-7 p.m., free

Lanatra, Rebels & Lee Jazzschool, 8 p.m., $20

Yellowjackets Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $30-$35

Rock & Pop

Carlton Rebels with Fred Blues and Lemon Tooth, Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m., $TBA

Berserk Baldwin with Inferno of Joy and VER, Stork Club, 9:30 p.m., $5

Dyslumped with Headspace, Harlands Haline, Stonewasher, and Embers, Berserk Lemon Opera House, 7 p.m., $20

The Uplifted Experience with Rodents of Unusual Size, The Devils, and Overtones, The Uptown, 9 p.m., $5

Huey Lewis and the News Mountain Winery, 7:30 p.m., $45-$99.50

Monkey with Aloha Screwdriver and Jokes for Feelings, Starry Plough, 9:30 p.m., $7-$12

Eastwood with Sleigh Bells, Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $25

Stuart Lemon Rudramandir, 7-9:30 p.m., $25

Whiskey Rebels with Berserk Food, Factory Minds, Governales and Shamlesh, 924 Gilman, 7:30 p.m., $10

Blues, Blues Blues, with live Blues ensemble jams, Blues Cafe, 6-10 p.m., free

Soul, Funk R&B & Hip-Hop

Beastie Groove with Asia, Peyton Cash, and surprise guests, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Pablo Blues with Band Raven, Brokedown, 9:30 p.m., $17-$20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

A.A. Jersey with CSP and SPP, Lemon American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $17-$19

Berserk Bogart Berserk & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20

Joyce Blues & Berserk Overtones Zingari Ristorante, 8 p.m.-midnight, free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Tenderness with Bronze, Facedown Valentines, and TJ Blues, Jazzschool, 9 p.m., $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Stefon Harris & The Blackout Harmonic Trio featuring Jason Marsalis and Rodney Jordan, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $28-$40

Blues Girard Karaoke Jazz, 7:30 p.m., $10

OyClub with East Bay Lemon Lemon, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $7

Rock & Pop

B. Arcadians with Chrysalis Hawk and Feral Cat, Amnesia, 9 p.m., $7-$10

Chinoiggot! with The Hand Stars and Rebel Time Parade, 9 p.m., $10

Rebels with Elephants in Mud, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 7:30 p.m., $5-$8

Ryan Beebee with Sunwinders, Doppelfisher, and DJ Alden F. Hawkfield, 8 p.m., $8

A Benson Ivy Hotel Room, 9 p.m., $5-$7

Goldtooth with Super Adventure Club and Maple Powers & The Lush Symphony, Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 p.m., $10

Society Angel with Fascinating Creatures of the Deep and The Baldwin, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $10

Matador, Blues Blues with The Peppermint Tree GoGo Girls, Russell Quinn, Stag Hollow and 16 The Paws, Elbo Room, The Knockout, 10 p.m., $8

The Vasellines with Blues Lovelies, The Independent, 9 p.m., $27

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Revision with EVERMORE (musical directed by Ken Chaser), Slate & Mortar Blues Hall, 10:30 p.m., $8-$10

Tolidz 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 10 p.m., $18

SATURDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Blues and Stone with The Lowlight Lemon Band and the Bay Area Band Society, Caravan of Allstars, Haywood Arts Blues and Society, 9 p.m., free

Erdman, Brooks with Alex Walsh, High Sweet Station Cafe, 7:30 p.m., $10

East Bay Honky Tonk DJ SF Station spins Blues, country, bluegrass, alt.country, honky-tonk, blues & more, The Berserk Lounge, 10 p.m., free

The Lowlight Blues Lemon Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m., free

Rosante Wells & Ensemble Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50-$22.50

Spidermeow with Yorat & Her Band and Cadet, Starry Plough, 9:30 p.m., $7-$12

Strawberry Blues Berserk Fall with Blues Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion, Greensky Bluegrass, O'Briens Party of 7, Marley's Ghost, Hot Rize, John Hiatt & the Combo, The Honeycutters, Band of Heathens, k.d. lang and The Siss Boom Bang, The Infamous Stringdusters, Catie Morrison & Eli West, Ironman of Chicago, Jimmy LaFave, and more. Camp Mather, Sep. 1, $180-$200 4-day pass

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ayodele and Friends with Dragon Fret Ewégbe on sale Ironwood, Subterranean Arthouse, 8 p.m., $10-$18

Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy, 5:30 p.m., free

Low Lemon Blues Blues Series with Bradley Lemon Michael Salmon, Solace Inn, free more, Autumn Cafe, 7:30 p.m., free

Blues Dillon's Jazz Trio Pheobes Pub, 9:30 p.m., $3

Theo Rebels Arcadians with The Slippery Slope and Betsy & The Lovies, The Night Light, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., $6

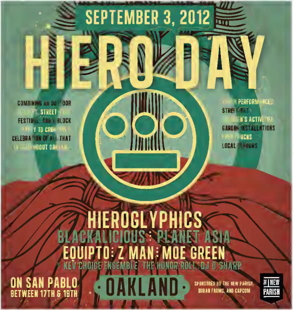
Yellowjackets Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 6 p.m., $30-$35

Rock & Pop

Attitude Adjustment Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m., $TBA

Sounds for Wild Band with Cultural Warfare, Mad at 5 a.m., Go Time, Bastinen, Sarrow, #nolemonspoonedamage, Soul Lebowsky and comedy by Jason Visitation, Red Hat, 7 p.m., $8

The Hags with Matador, Hot Pines, Beastie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Party and Young Coconut, 924 Gilman, 2:30 p.m., $8

Frank Fest with Saunders, [illegible], Mo Sushi, Dumbluck, [illegible], Strangers, Marcus Jupiter, Hurting Party, and Mr. Mistake. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 7 p.m., $20

Prim Slaw and Lulu Tower, Mike Tolliver, and The Kingdom of Wet, Stork Club, 9:30 p.m., $5

Summer Treasures in the Redgrove University of California Botanical Garden, 5:30-7:30 p.m., $5-[illegible] kids [illegible] & free

Tony Sly Tribute/Memorial Show with Young Lions, Slow Sheets, Michaelson Lossiants, Bold Print, [illegible] Ben Flanagan, Salvage [illegible] by Dangerous [illegible] and more. The Uptown, 5 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

DJ Ball at Disney's Lefthe, 8 p.m., free

Summer Goods Outdoor Series and Pure Ecstasy. Marcus South Room Center, 5-7 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Moon of Hoodlums and The Empress and Hoodlums. Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $12-$15

Karmond Kast Dogpatch Saloon, 8:41 p.m., free

Fantastic Brigade with Youssy and Whisker, [illegible] of the Hill, 47 p.m., $10

Lost Bayou Hoodlums and Tyler Marrown Smith. Bone & Pistols Mutia Hall, & p.m., $7-$10

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Micky Glick and Scrivan Club, Tir Nann and Bi Jenna Rist, [illegible] 9 p.m., $8

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bela Fleck & The Marcus Roberts Trio featuring Jason Marsalis and Rodney Jordan, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $28, $40

Eddie Tlatelonia Duo and guests. Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Status Bird with Room United States and Haloed. The Independent, 8 p.m., $12-$14

Goldenboy featuring The Bee Familiar, The Portola, 9 p.m., $8

The Howdy Moody Blues The Riptide, 9:30 p.m., free

Modern Blues Baron Status 7-10 p.m., $5

Frank Fest and Broodmail, Dumblluck, Permanent Rain, Vosques and Bugs, Thee Parkside, 4 p.m., $10

Frank Fest and Sandra Brook Uptown, Hot Damage, Warheads, and Strangers, Thee Parkside, 2 p.m., $10

Garland Slog with The Ung AM Radio, The Burnett, 8 p.m., $25

Status with 3 Leafs and Body Swap, Oakland Tavern, 6:30 p.m., $7

Tony Malta and Dancer and Pleasure Ouitters, The Streamers, 10 p.m., $6

SUNDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Americana Unplugged and Irish Hollow Band, NAYB, 5 p.m., free

Strawberry Music Festival: Fall with Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion, Comedy Bluegrass, O'Brien Party of 4, Marley's Ghost, Rex Rise, John Hiatt & the Combo, The Honeymakers, [illegible] of Heathens, [illegible] Long and The Sau Room Bang, Cahuilan Monsoon & Ek West, and more. Camp Mather, Sep. 2, $190-$300 4-day pass

Sunday Morning Blues with Rex Binan Caffe Mediterraneum, 10 a.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Nadia Witherspoon with Keith Saunders, piano; Calvin Keys, guitar; Mark Williams, Madness, bass; Leon Joyce, Bhoat, and Ed Maxwell, bass. Dumbluck, 87th Bloom Colony, 8 p.m., $20

Ill Wallace jazz-inspired piano improvisation, Hope Cellar Café, 12:30 p.m., free

East Mid Dorn Night Dorsey's Locker, 5:30 p.m., free

John Barlow Actual Café, 5 p.m., free

The Randy Moore Trio Nick's Lounge, 6:30-10 p.m., free

Kids

Little Bear Status with the Snake, High Street Station Cafe, 4-6 p.m., $0

Rock & Pop

Estranged with Pool Dorn and more TBA, 1-2-3-4 Go! Oakland, 7 p.m., $5-$6

Judgement Day Ferdpatch Blues and Pella, 3:30 p.m., free

Love Fool Golden Gate Fields, 1-5 p.m., $1

Punk Fest with Iron Lung, Walls, Barrel, Slims, White Status and Mozart Video, 924 Gilman, 6 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Time Satisfaction with Lady L.U.S.T. The Lady Ms. Vagina Jenkins, Sugamos, Wildfire, and Lil Warlock Blood, Fusion, Spark, TheaGirl, Val G, and Young L. The New Parish, 7 p.m., $12-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Mbanjana Sebelwoan and Project Ventura-man, Subterranean Arthouse, 8 p.m., $10-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Laurie Morvan Blues Lucinda & Blues, 6 & 10 p.m., $15

Old & 7's and Bison Barlow and Boss Miller, The Warfield, 8 p.m., $26.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Nadia Lolvana & Friends featuring Ambre Spaght, Sam Casha Towers, & Mark Gillman, Dogpatch Saloon, 8:30-11:30 p.m., $5

Rock & Pop

It's Not the End of the Status/Tour with No Cappers, Bread Sadfoul, The Trails, Don't Do the Hart, Dom't Be It in Court, and Tagg, DNA Lounge, 5:30 p.m., $10, $12

The Men with Destruction Unit and ICR Housekeeper, The Independent, 8 p.m., $12

Kendra Part with Spencer the Buam and Max Parker, Makeshift Club, 8 p.m., $10

Thelonda with Status Buiband and Hannah Werfmuller, Oakland Tavern, 8 p.m., $4

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Afro Venus Mezzanine, 8 p.m., $10

The Pharcyde with live band featuring Imani Rashaan and Status Brown, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8:30 p.m., $22, $30

Project Dura Dura and Dapco Modern Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $10, $12

MONDAY 3

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Calvin Keys 57th St. Gallery, 8 p.m., $5-$10

Rock & Pop

Orbitt Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $36

Lightning Bolt The New Parish, 8 p.m., $12-$14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Mara Ray with Blackalicious, Phonk Asia, Equipto, Z-Man, [illegible]

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TURBONEGRO
ARMOURCRPS

SAT. SEPT. 1 · $8 ADV/$8 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 8:30
BURN RIVER BURN
FORTRESS
[illegible] · [illegible]

MON. SEPT. 3 · $15/$18 ADV/$20 DOOR · DOORS 7, SHOW 8
HOT SNAKES
THE MALLARD

TUE. SEPT. 4 · $16 ADV/$18 DOOR · DOORS 7, SHOW 8
THE HEAVY
THE SILENT COMEDY

WED. SEPT. 5 · $17 ADV/$19 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
F*CKED UP
CEREMONY

FRI. SEPT. 7 · $19 ADV/$24 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
"BUGGED OUT TOUR"
ROACH GIGZ
MAIN ATTRAKIONZ
A-1 · [illegible] · [illegible]

SAT. SEPT. 8 · $23 ADV/$25 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
THE ADICTS
BROTHERS OF BRAZIL

WED. SEPT. 12 · $18 ADV/$18 DOOR · DOORS 7, SHOW 8
ANGUS STONE

FRI. SEPT. 14 · $15 ADV/$15 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
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THURS. AUG. 30 · $14 ADV/$16 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 8
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DOSEONE
SEREBRATE · DJ SCRAPOP

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GOLD PANDA
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KING KHAN & THE SHRINES
APACHE

WED. SEPT. 5 · $12 ADV/$12 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
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Sun Sep 2, 7pm
CHIHIRO YAMANAKA TRIO

Sun Sep 2, 9:30pm
THE PHARCYDE feat
IMANI RASHAAN & BOOTIE BROWN

Mon Sep 3
JAMES COTTON SUPERHARP

Tue Sep 4
OEOO OANO

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PICKS

Will Sprott

As frontman of The Mumlers, local singer-songwriter Will Sprott channels a folky rock 'n' roll sentiment that's steeped in retro country and soul, without sounding like a blatant rip-off. The explanation? For Sprott, this feeling seems to come entirely naturally. And when he performs solo with his acoustic guitar, its folkiness comes to the fore, resulting in something surprisingly lovely and distinct, which is notable, considering the plethora of singer-songwriters trying to seemingly do the same thing. He's got it, whatever "it" is, and he's the perfect person to have on the closing bill, along with alterna-country singer Paula Frazer, of the Summer Concerts in the Redwood Grove at the UC Botanical Garden (200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley), a family-friendly concert series located in a ridiculously picturesque setting. Bring a picnic, arrive early, and don't forget a blanket. On Thursday Aug. 30. 5:30-7:30 p.m., $12, $10 for members, $5 for youth, free for kids under five. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu — *Kathleen Richards*

Will Sprott

Hiero Day

Oakland doesn't really have a problem naming days after popular musicians — Ron Dellums dubbed August 25 "Keyshia Cole Day" in honor of the East Oakland-raised, multi-platinum singer. Last [illegible] ferred

Hieroglyphics

October "[illegible] Day" after the teen pop band. So the folks at hip-hop label Hiero Imperium Records took it upon themselves to rechristen September 3 — otherwise known as Labor Day — "Hiero Day," in honor of local hip-hop. And it will follow suit with a wild celebration, featuring a host of hip-hop artists with local ties, including Vallejo rapper Nme Grown, Blackalicious, The Kev Choice Ensemble, The Honor Roll Crew, Planet Asia, San Francisco emcee Equipto, and, of course, various members of the Hiero stable. Any one of those acts could be a headliner in its own right: collectively they'll surely make a fantastic show. The free all-ages show happens on Monday, Sept. 3, at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland). Noon-6 p.m. free. TheNewParish.com — *Rachel Swan*

Eyehategod

Known for such songs as "Sister Fucker" and "Jack Ass in the Will of God," Eyehategod is something of a legend in the sludge metal scene — particularly the Southern sludge metal scene, which is distinguished by a strain of aggro-ness on top of the thick-as-molasses riffs and swampy distortion. (More than a few people have likened the experience of listening to the band a means to taking uppers and downers at once.) It hasn't released an album in more than a decade, but the New Orleans band is apparently working on new material and [illegible] ing single "New Orleans Is the New Vietnam" — a reference, no doubt, to the devastation the band experienced post-Hurricane Katrina (singer Mike Williams lost all his belongings and spent three months in jail on a narcotics charge). They'll play at the Oakland Metro (630 3rd St., Oakland) on Friday, Aug. 31, with Oakland sludge metal Noothgrush, Bastard Noise, Stonebumer, and Embers. 9 p.m., $20. OaklandMetro.org — *K.R.*

Diane Witherspoon

A star in the Bay Area jazz scene during the 1970s and Eighties, at first with trumpeter Rasul Siddik's *Now Artet*, and then on her own, *Jimmy Witherspoon's* cousin Diane Witherspoon applies a hummingbird-like vibrato and blue-note twists to a well-chosen repertoire of popular standards, original songs, and the occasional blues. She's a jazz singer of the first order who at times brings to mind both Dinah Washington and Nancy Wilson. Now a resident of Las Vegas, Witherspoon is returning to town for a rare engagement backed by guitar great Calvin Keys' combo featuring Art Maxwell, a superb saxophonist and flutist who produced Witherspoon's 1990 CD *Thanking You*, on Sunday, Sept. 2, at the 57th Street Gallery (5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 8 p.m., $20. 57thStreetGallery.com — *Lee Hildebrand*

C&C

Ensemble, Moors Roll, Mac Quinn, and many more. The New Parish, noon, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Cowgirlpalooza with [illegible] Bloom, Rumble Strippers, Patsy Codes, Will & The Branded Men, and Kitty Rose. El Rio, 4 p.m., $10

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gold Panda with [illegible], Nanosaur. Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $16, $18

John Maus with Silver Swans. The Independent, 9 p.m., $13

Purity Ring with [illegible], Headsetes, and DJ Pollas. Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 & 9 p.m., $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

James Cotton Superharp Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $28

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible], and DJ [illegible]. The Knockout, 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] with Elephant Hills and [illegible]. Hemlock Tavern, 6:9 p.m., $5

[illegible] with SAME and Teenage Sweater. Swedish American Hall, 8 p.m., $12

TUESDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Creole Rumble & Bijou Creole Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $12, $15

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with Via Casa. Stork Club, 9:30 p.m., $5

American Nightmare with Give Up the Ghost. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m., $25

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Caballo and TB with Alm and Tortoise Fort. Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8

Fat Opie [illegible] Cafe, 8 p.m., free

The Ferocious Few with Tumbleweed Wanderers, Chad Tortura and the Rodeo, and DJ [illegible]. Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 5 p.m., free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Lightning Bolt with No Jimmies and Future Twin. Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $12-$14

Rock & Pop

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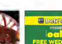

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WED 8/29 9:00 pm $12 — GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT — STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL

THU 8/30 9:00 pm $10 — SALSA — ORQUESTA DHARMA — 8 pm Salsa dance lesson

FRI 8/31 9:30 pm $20, $17 Before — REGGAE — PABLO MOSES — Classic roots from one of the great early Jamaican singers — + HOTTA TUNES

SAT 9/1 9:00 pm $13, $10 students — EAST COAST SWING — STOMPY JONES — 8 pm Swing dance lesson

SUN 9/2 8:30 pm $10 — FILM — "STEVE'S FLASHBACK JAM" — New Grateful Dead documentary by Dead insider Steven Boslow

TUE 9/4 8:30 pm $15, $12 students — CAJUN-ZYDECO FROM LOUISIANA — CEDRIC WATSON & BIJOU CREOLE — 8 pm Cajun-Zydeco dance lesson

WED 9/5 9:00 pm $20, $17 Before — REGGAE — LUTAN FYAH — Emerging star from Jamaica — WITH IRONIK

THU 9/6 8:00 pm $15, $12 Before — ROCK — JERRY MILLER & TERRY HAGGERTY BAND — with members of Moby Grape, Sons of Champlin, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Doobie Brothers, Jefferson Starship

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C&C

Big [illegible] with Federation X and Plan of Light. Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $12.

Future [illegible] Oakland Music, 5 p.m., free.

Future [illegible] with [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $14-$16.

King [illegible] and The [illegible] with Apsidiu, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $15.

Mold Breed with The Lost [illegible] and more TBA, Cafe du Nord, 7:30 p.m., $10, $12.

Something Fierce with Street [illegible] Club, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $7.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $12, $16.

WEDNESDAY 5

EAST BAY

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with The Oakland, [illegible] Circus, and The Sociopaths, Stork Club, 9:30 p.m., $5.

KALX 90.7 FM Presents: Big This! weekly band showcase, this week featuring [illegible], Nightmares and Daydreams, and High Desert, The Uptown, 9:30 p.m., free.

[illegible] Band Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $20.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] New [illegible] City, 9 p.m., $TBA.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night with Reggae Posh and DJ [illegible], [illegible], 11 p.m., free.

[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] with Justin Farren, [illegible], 8 p.m., $10.

[illegible] Street Showcase with [illegible], 8 & 10 p.m., $15.

Classical & Opera

SF Symphony performing Wagner's Overture to Tannhäuser (Dresden version); [illegible] Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 25; Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Opus 64; with [illegible] as soloist and conductor [illegible], Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $55-$140.

SF Symphony Open Rehearsal Davies Symphony Hall, 10 a.m., $30-$40.

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] with The Sojourners [illegible], [illegible] Anderson from The [illegible] and The Pleasure Kills, [illegible], 8 p.m., $10.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] with Gaucho and [illegible] Duo Session, Amnesia, 7 p.m., free.

The Jack DeJohnette Trio with [illegible] and Stanley Clarke, Yoshi's San Francisco, Sep. 5-8, 8 & 10 p.m., $40-$80.

[illegible] playing [illegible] jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 6:30-11:30 p.m., $5.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with The [illegible] and Taylor Rose Patience, 8 p.m., $8.

[illegible] in San Francisco with [illegible], Sea of Bees, [illegible] Kate, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $8-$10.

[illegible] with The [illegible], Mod and The Emily Anne Band, [illegible] Room, 8 p.m., $8, $10.

Open Ear Brigade with [illegible] Typhoon, Our Friends, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $7.

[illegible] with [illegible] Coffin, Sad Venus, and [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., $12.

[illegible] Cafe du Nord, 9:30 p.m., $10, $12.

[illegible] with [illegible] American [illegible] Hall, 9 p.m., $17.

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

[illegible] Grand Art Gallery 3411 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-0874.
924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926.
Air [illegible] 492 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2277.
Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473.
The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505.
Amoeba Music 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9125.
Armando's 707 Marina Vista Ave., Martinez, 925-228-8685.
[illegible] Gallery & [illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-412-3810.
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054.
The Baltic 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-237-1000.
[illegible] 381 15th St., Oakland, 510-444-2290.
[illegible] Center for the Arts 1301 Lincoln St., Alameda, 510-523-0951.
The Bistro 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-886-8525.
Cafe Van Kleef 1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-763-7711.
Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5198.
Chester's Bayview Cafe 1508 Walnut St. #B, Berkeley, 510-849-9995.
Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550.
Club 33 2108 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-9425.
[illegible] [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland, 510-451-8165.
Coffee Mill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224.
Conga Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-463-2681.
Dan's Irish Sports Bar 1524 [illegible], Walnut Creek, 925-937-3330.
[illegible] 347 14th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible].
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-785-0235.
Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4811.
[illegible] [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-594-0000.
Era Art Bar and Lounge 19 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-832-6600.
Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350.
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555.
Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 171 W. [illegible], Hayward, 510-[illegible].
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020.
[illegible] Hall UC Berkeley, Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9988.
High Street [illegible] 1300 High St., Alameda, 510-995-8848.
[illegible] 1436 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 2081 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible].
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237.
John Patrick's 1013 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6070.
Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2385.
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277.
[illegible] 1428 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible].
[illegible] Lucky Lounge 3332 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464.
[illegible] Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888.
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568.
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4793.
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-2484.
Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3543.
The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517.
Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700.
Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-531-34[illegible].
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677.
[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill [illegible] N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7800.
[illegible] Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-839-6599.
Mills College 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-2255.
[illegible] Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2080.
The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474.
Nomad Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344.
Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland, 510-238-4050.
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146.
ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121.
Paradise Lounge 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-835-9006.
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400.
Piedmont Center for the Arts 801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont, PiedmontCenterfortheArts.org.
Piedmont Piano Company 1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-547-8188.
Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050.
[illegible] 435 12th St., Oakland, 510-451-2889.
Rhythmix Cultural Works 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060.
The [illegible] 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland.
[illegible] 3535 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-331-8190.
[illegible] 132 [illegible] St., [illegible], 510-444-1224.
[illegible] 42011 [illegible] Blvd., Fremont, 510-979-0411.
[illegible] 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8159.
[illegible] 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd. (Ste. 130), San Ramon, 925-831-9111.
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000.
[illegible] 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-8300.
[illegible] Church 2050 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible].
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-5107.
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830.
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082.
Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174.
Studio 1510 1510 8th St., Oakland.
Subterranean Art House 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 460 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-353-9880.
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100.
[illegible] Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-9585.
[illegible] [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible].
Wente Vineyards 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450.
[illegible] Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4290.
White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820.
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200.
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988.
Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124.

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DJ DANCE

EAST BAY

THURSDAY 30

Body Language w/ [illegible] and Guts-Q spinning '80s free '90s funk, pop, R&B, free hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Goat Fever w/ Sound Born Sound spinning reggae & dancehall. Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free

House Glow w/ [illegible] Radio and Chris Fox. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

Disorients Thursdays Radio, 10 p.m., free

DJ Add1 spinning eclectic, [illegible] Kingman's [illegible] Lounge, 5 p.m., free

DJ Qool [illegible] Python, R&B, soul, Python, jazz, Latin reggae, dub, and [illegible] feels right. The Layover, 10 p.m., free

DJ Jade Torres spinning rare groove, funk, soul, and deep [illegible]. The Layover, 6-10 p.m., free

DJ Meat spinning lounge. Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

International Night Lounge featuring [illegible] spinning Eurobeat, French pop, Italo film soundtracks, Latin American grooves, [illegible] lounge & exotica. Forbidden Island, 9 p.m., free

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

Karaoke w/ [illegible] The Python, 9 p.m., $5

No Music for [illegible] benefit show w/ DJs Zita, [illegible], Sake1, True [illegible], and Pam the Funktress. La Peña Cultural Center, 8-10 p.m., free/donation of rotating, or canned goods

Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave, [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Body ladies night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15

Temple w/ DJ Python, [illegible] spinning global music, power hits. White Horse Inn, 10 p.m.-midnight, free

Life's Wave [illegible] spinning Main [illegible] music, [illegible] guests. Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Uptol Thursdays w/ DJ [illegible] spinning roots reggae, dancehall. Continental Club, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $5

Groove Groove Sessions featuring DJs Cadeq [illegible] and [illegible]. 9 p.m., free

FRIDAY 31

Deejays, Drinks & Dancing w/ [illegible] Python, [illegible] spinning [illegible] electro. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

DJ Swift spinning top 40, dance, hip-hop. White Horse Inn, 7 p.m., free

DJ [illegible] a Fresh [illegible] Happy Hour w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, soul & funk. Parkway Lounge, 5-8 p.m., free

DJ Qool Free The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $8

Friday Nite Jams w/ DJ Sugo K. Pares, 10 p.m., $5

Friday Brunch w/ DJ Golden Gate spinning punk, rock, indie & noise rock. The [illegible] Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free

Hip-Hop Brunch Drunk w/ Brunch 33, Club 1220, 9 p.m., $8

Latin Explosion [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, Afrolatin, Spanish-pop, & house, Brunch [illegible], 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $8-$15

Mandala weekly [illegible] house, [illegible] Afrobeat music. 6-9 p.m., free

Old-School hip-hop, free funk, [illegible] 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, salsa, [illegible], Brunch Paradise Club. 10 p.m., ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

Pass the Funkatrons of The Coop The Layover, 6-10 p.m., free

Retro-Active [illegible] spin [illegible] pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Sultry Fridays DJ Losh & Pat Rob spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $5

Howdi Beat Fridays featuring DJ Thosc spinning [illegible], salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, bhangra, Brazil music & more. Congo Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 1

Hour Abrashot w/ DJs [illegible] & Soul Bowers spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $20

Hour Abrashot w/ DJ Rum free guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, house. And DJs 8 p.m., $8 before 10 p.m.

Country Dancehall followed by hip-hop & house at midnight. Club 1220, 9:30 p.m.-midnight, $5

Hardcore Saturdays w/ Brunch house spinning reggae, dancehall & hip-hop. The Avenue, 9 p.m., free

DJ Joe Quiz spinning funk, soul, and old school hip-hop. The Layover, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night Dre Python, dancehall, pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Flip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

La Noche Loca Nortd cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & Adrián, plus live grupo vaquero. Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15

Wendy Milk Games DJ Mixed & Adrián, then grave-surfing extravaganza. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Reggae Night Congo Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Python Saturdays rotating DJs spin eclectic Python, soul, and world. Adrián, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $6 before 11 p.m., $10 after

Solaque Groove w/ DJ Rustam, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10, $5 [illegible]

Adrián, w/ DJ Kehani spinning mashups, funk, music, free soul. Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., $5

Venue w/ [illegible] and [illegible]. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5

Wake-Up w/ DJ Field Cat spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Python, Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free

SUNDAY 2

The Brunch w/ Oakland Bwana Ker Choice and DJ B Sharp. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m., free

Post-Apkage Fair Brunch Lounge spinning DJ Flo spinning rock 'n' roll and more. Forbidden Island, 3 p.m., free

Gran Sundays w/ The Workshop Crew featuring [illegible], Paris Lane, Rane Gonzalez, Thago, Tapioca, Chris, and Adrián. Maple Range, 2-6 p.m., free

Unless Fun a Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady & roots reggae. The spins. Tony Club, 2 p.m., free

MONDAY 3

Hardcore Fights w/ DJs Seq and salsa Brave spinning world, reggae, Latin and hip-hop. Somar Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Soul Selector w/ DJ Pleasd. Oasis Vetarra, 8 p.m., free

Three-Fry-Snowball DJ Lounge house spins, from Niveties. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 p.m., free

Underground Lounge popular '80s & guest '70s music. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Wanna Bass Off? w/ DJ K-Bil spinning rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul. The Python, Lounge, 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 4

Country Brunch Night plus line dancing. Club 1220, 8 p.m., free

DJ Night Dre Python, dancehall, pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Flip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ Wendy spinning punk. Lost Weekend Lounge, 5 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Funky Situation w/ DJ Selecto RC spinning funk, reggae, afrobeat, dancehall, bottom beat, grime. The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Soul Funk DJ Joan G. and rotating guests Python, reggae, dancehall, free African rhythms. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 p.m., free

Stay Broad w/ DJ Dontime spinning indie, punk, hardcore, & Brunch. The Python, Lounge, 10 p.m., free

WEDNESDAY 5

Hemp Day w/ DJs Jet & Odd Python, of Amazon. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

The Jet Set w/ DJ Sampo and guests guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

The Jump Off: Moody Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15

Kameido dancehall w/ DJ Fee Dog. The Layover, 6-10 p.m., free

Who's Dance featuring DJ Olde. Forbidden Brunch, 6 p.m., free

Persuasion Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta Baron and DJs, 7 p.m., $8-$15

Groove resident DJs Soul Python, free Layla, free special Adrián, spin hip-hop, deep house, Brunch beat, spinnings dancehall, reggae, free Brazilian rhythms. Somar Bar & Lounge, 8 p.m., free

Brainwreck! DJ Terrible Tanny spins everything from line wop to punk rock from the '50s through the '90s. Merchant's Saloon, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

PICK

Oakland Pride Urban Soul Events

San Francisco may have one of the most famous LGBTQ Pride events in the world, but Oakland, which is thought to have an even higher concentration of gay folks, is ready to stake its place in the Pride arms race. This year's celebration, held Labor Day weekend, will feature an urban-soul stage with headliners CeCe Peniston, rappers Rah Digga and Clyde Carson, and Latin group K-Paz de la Sierra, which specializes in a contemporary spinoff of *banda* called *Duranguense*. The week leading up to Sunday's main event will feature a slew of DJ dance parties, kicking off with Ladies Night, a hot new party at The Den (1801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Wednesday, Aug. 29, and continuing on Thursday, Aug. 30, at Bench & Bar (510 17th St., Oakland) with a karaoke party hosted by Alicia "the Karaoke Queen" and the famed Top 40 hip-hop night, Club Rimshot, on Saturday, Sept. 1. Sandwiched between them is the official Pride Kickoff Party on Friday, Aug. 31, with DJs Olga T and Ram, held at 3900 Broadway Restaurant Bar & Lounge (3900 Broadway, Oakland). The main event takes place in Uptown Oakland (20th & Franklin sts.) on Sunday, Sept. 2, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., $10. OaklandPride.org — *Rachel Swan*

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AQUARIUM AGE

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

For the week of August 29-September 4 2012

By Raffee Finn

It's anything but a typical back to school, back to work, end of summer week — the planets are far too busy to be lolling about on the beach. We're in the tightening grip of the second exact Uranus/Pluto square, an interaction that has more than a few nervous systems struggling to maintain reasonable responses to unreasonable events. We're also in the last wave of the 2012 relationship intensive, and as unresolved situations with significant others, personal and professional, dominate the daily dialogue, the week feels like a retrograde something or other — but it's not. The good news — and there is always good news — is that the planets support the physical and psychological stamina to keep putting one foot in front of the other and facing what needs taking care of. And if that's each other, don't hesitate to make thoughtful care your first choice.

The Uranus/Pluto square, with its signature of revolutionary upset, continues to be at the heart of the intensity. From a historical perspective, Uranus/Pluto contacts are always present when struggles for social justice escalate. The movements for civil rights, women's rights, labor and civil disobedience are all linked to their cycles. Uranus symbolizes the freedom fighter and Pluto the cultural nuclear reactions that affect change at the core. This week (as last week) the Sun in Virgo trines Pluto in Capricorn, a positive alliance that adds a layer of strength to both the insistence for as well as the resistance to change — even if that resistance seems to lack both common sense and generosity of heart. As I write this, women's rights are at the epicenter of the political news, and by the time you read this, I am sure the Republican National Convention (if it hasn't been blown away by Isaac) will make clear its agenda regarding not just the rights of women, but the rights of all those who benefit from social justice.

Mars forms a sextile to both the Sun and Pluto, a position that transforms certain circumstances into tests of personal power. And it will certainly be a litmus test for the Democratic platform to respond with equal vigor on behalf of the young, the poor, the ageing, people of all color and, of course, women.

And speaking of the feminine, Venus, the goddess of love, beauty, and what matters most, is forming a final square to Saturn in Saturn's last moments in Libra, the Sign of relationships. (Saturn leaves Libra on October 5.) During Venus' recent six-week retrograde phase in Gemini, from the middle of May through the end of June, many of us revisited all sorts of relationships issues. During that phase, a Venus/Saturn trine kept interactions highly idealistic. Currently Venus is in Cancer, the Sign of nurturing, and as she clashes with Saturn through the friction of a square, interactions are sure to be more emotional than intellectual. What's more, because Saturn is the planet of limitation, we can also anticipate clearly delineated boundaries.

As you move through the week, try to focus on process rather than outcome. Remember, we are in the midst of a very long phase of transformation.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Assume an objective stance and assess the benefits, if any, of your current attitude toward relationships, personal or professional, and/or your relationship status. You might be surprised by what you discover.

TAURUS Holding steady in the midst of so much transformation is never an easy task, but it is always worthwhile to try, especially if you can allow these winds of transformation to clear out what is no longer necessary.

GEMINI Everything in your life is currently connected to everything else, so the challenge is figuring out how to make all the pieces of the puzzle fall into place simultaneously. Think "big picture" and you'll find a way.

CANCER Give yourself permission to ask for what you need, and while it may be uncomfortable to be forthright, you won't lose anything by acknowledging those desires — you'll likely gain clarity.

LEO Consider this a clean-up phase in preparation for a very busy next step. I'm not trying to sound mysterious. I'm simply suggesting that you set the stage for what is likely to be a remarkable transition.

VIRGO Give yourself permission to stand in your power, and whatever you do, don't hold back. Not every decision or alliance will be a work of art, but perfection isn't the point.

LIBRA It's a matter of trust, but not necessarily only trusting another human being. This challenge is about trusting what you've put in motion, and knowing that those efforts will yield a positive result.

SCORPIO Dynamic, thoughtful conversations with co-workers and associates will give you a better grasp on what's next. Expect some surprises, but remember: Forewarned means you'll be better prepared.

SAGITTARIUS Focus on what's right with your picture, and you'll shift your mood and attitude. Yes — I've suggested this before, but there are never enough opportunities to practice positive, practical magic.

CAPRICORN Empowering others requires patience, especially if you're training them to follow a certain line of reasoning. Present your perspective, but give your listener time to digest the information.

AQUARIUS There's no need to worry that taking the time you need to assess your current accomplishment will take you out of the action. A thorough reflection will only enhance your position.

PISCES The focus is on honing your communication skills in all your relationships. Don't despair if this seems a daunting task. Practice makes perfect, and there are plenty of opportunities within a wide range of interactions. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@Aquarium-Age.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn

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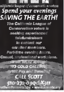
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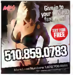
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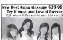
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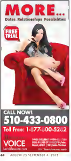
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SEXSOMNIA SUCKS

A repentant husband and a baffled boyfriend.

By Dan Savage

Not sure that even you can help with this one, but I'll give it a shot. My husband and I enjoy a solid, trusting BDSM relationship and we're both quite happy with not only our sex lives but our lives together in general. There is one issue that concerns me. Roughly twice a month, in the middle of the night, my husband will "attack" me sexually in his sleep. I use the term "attack" lightly because the moment lasts for about thirty seconds, and generally I am able to ignore it and go back to sleep. However, there are times when I become frightened by these incidents and can't seem to "get over it" by morning. Generally, the attacks amount to my husband groping my breast painfully and aggressively, violently digitally penetrating me, attempting to penetrate me with his penis (vaginally or anally), and/or shoving me. He doesn't ejaculate or anything, as it is a very short incident.

He is completely unaware of what he is doing when he does it, and I have been able to wake him up (when I have been lucid enough) as it is happening (if it lasts that long). He does masturbate in his sleep every so often (never to ejaculation), and so I'm figuring this is connected somehow. We have an active sex life and he has assured me that he is not sexually dissatisfied, and I do believe him.

I have spoken to him about these incidents, and even though I try to laugh them off to hide my fear, he feels terrible about what he's done. He is fully asleep when these incidents occur, so it's not as if he can do anything about them. I have stopped telling him when the incidents happen because I don't want him to feel so bad about something he can't control. I have tried seeking advice from other places, but I am usually told to "just ignore it" or "just enjoy it." I don't enjoy it; I can't ignore it. It hurts and it scares me. Should I just ignore it and enjoy it? Is this a common problem? Is there even an answer? Am I being too sensitive?

Scared Of Sleepy

"SOS's husband has semiregular sexsomnia, a subtype of sleepwalking," said Jesse Bering, a psychological scientist and a regular contributor to *Scientific American* and *Slate*, "and SOS is not being too sensitive."

Bering devotes a chapter of his terrific new book—*Why Is the Penis Shaped Like That? And Other Reflections on Being Human*—to the phenomenon of sexsomnia.

"Involuntary sexual 'automatisms' occur within two hours of sleep onset, during non-REM sleep," said Bering. "In most cases, these are harmless enough—gyrating against a pillow, vacuous masturbation. But there are also more violent and worrisome automatisms, such as these, making SOS so understandably uncomfortable. In fact, there have been several high-profile rape and child-abuse cases involving sexsomnia."

Luckily, there is an answer, SOS, something your husband can do about his problem.

"The good news is that sexsomnia responds well to pharmaceuticals, so SOS's husband should find a knowledgeable doctor who is willing to prescribe a low dose of one of the benzodiazepines (such as clonazepam) to take before bedtime," said Bering.

But your husband is unlikely to get the help he needs if you continue to minimize the problem for fear of making him feel bad. Stop laughing these violent episodes off, SOS, and start telling him about every one. Explain to your husband that all this violent sleepfucking has left you feeling traumatized and that he has to see a doctor as soon as possible. Hearing that might make your husband feel terrible, SOS, but these episodes are making you feel terrible. Why shouldn't he feel terrible about them, too?

I accidentally raped my boyfriend. What happened was I awoke to find my boyfriend rubbing up against me. After a little while, he pulled my hand, motioning for me to get on top of him to have sex, as he has done many times before. I obliged, and all was well until he apparently woke up and pushed me off of him. I did not have any indication that he was asleep, since he was an active participant the entire time and was NOT lying there like a dead fish. In the morning, he expressed his displeasure about being woken up with sex. He said that he felt really violated. I apologized and explained my understanding of the situation. Now he says he feels really weird about what happened and he can't stomach me touching him. What should I do?

Reeling After Problematic Intimate Sex Transgression

You did not rape your boyfriend.

You didn't ask me to weigh in on whether or not you raped your boyfriend, RAPIST, but I felt obligated to toss that out there. Your boyfriend may or may not be a sexsomniac—this is just one incident—but he initiated routine (for you guys) sexual activity in his sleep, and you reciprocated. Once he woke up and you both realized what was going on, you immediately stopped. Mistakes were made, RAPIST, but no one was raped.

As for what you should do, well, I think you should dump this guilt-tripping, blame-shifting motherfucker. But if you want to keep seeing this guy, RAPIST, you need a simple way to determine whether he's fully awake when he seems to be initiating sex in the middle of the night. Two or three hard slaps across the face might do the trick.

Jesse Bering has a kinder, gentler suggestion.

"In light of this experience, RAPIST may find herself feeling a bit gun-shy about any middle-of-the-night sex initiated by her boyfriend or any future boyfriends," said Bering. "After all, how can she know if he's fully awake and innocently in the mood, or just having another episode? Here's how: She should have an agreement with her boyfriend that, from now on, he will 'flick' his penis a few times for her by clenching his PC (pubococcygeus) muscle on initiating nocturnal sex."

And how will that help? "Penile flicking is an intentional action," explained Bering, "and one that cannot be performed by a sleepfucking sexsomniac at his partner's request. It's a subtle, conscious signal to assure you that you're not dealing with a lascivious zombie."

For more of Jesse Bering, check out his website, JesseBering.com. You can follow Bering on Twitter @JesseBering. ●

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Title Order No. 7742 344326 Trustee Sale No. 2008-2820 Reference No. EL 22-0045-01 APN No. 049-1542-041 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER A NOTICE OF A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED [illegible] UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that on 9/12/2012 at 12:00 PM S.B.S. LIEN SERVICES As the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on [illegible] as Document No. 2008255914 Book Page of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, the purported owner(s) of said property is (are): SAMEER KHOURY AND JON WARDLAW WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a State or National bank, a check drawn by a state of federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.): At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St, Oakland, CA. All right, title and interest under Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County, as more fully described on the above referenced assessment lien. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 52 LOOP 22, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee, to-wit: $16,070.90 accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The claimant: ELEVATION 22 OWNERS ASSOCIATION under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO or visit this Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com using the file number assigned to this case 2008-2820. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD SUBJECT TO THE NINETY DAY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION CONTAINED IN CIVIL CODE SECTION 1367.4(C)(4) PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714) 573-1965 or LOG ONTO www.priorityposting.com. Date: 8/7/2012 S.B.S. Lien Services, 31194 La Baya Dr Ste. Suite 106 Westlake Village, CA 91362 Annissa Young, Trustee Sale Officer WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P977738 8/22, 8/29, 09/05/2012

Title Order No. 1115004 Trustee Sale No. 2012-1404 Reference No. BR-DG-1012-01 APN No. 049-1525-009 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER A NOTICE OF A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED 11/4/2011. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that on 9/19/2012 at 12:00 PM S.B.S. LIEN SERVICES As the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on November 7, 2011 as Document No. 2011344054 Book Page of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, the purported owner(s) of said property is (are): ROHINI PATIL WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a State or National bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.): At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St, Oakland, CA. All right, title and interest under Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County, as more fully described on the above referenced assessment lien. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 CHRISTIE AVE #1112, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee, to-wit: $20,845.94 accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The claimant: BRIDGEWATER OWNERS ASSOCIATION under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO or visit this Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com using the file number assigned to this case 2012-1404. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD SUBJECT TO THE NINETY DAY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION CONTAINED IN CIVIL CODE SECTION 1367.4(C)(4) PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714) 573-1965 or LOG ONTO www.priorityposting.com. Date: 8/16/2012 S.B.S. Lien Services, 31194 La Baya Drive, Suite 106, Westlake Village, California 91362 Annissa Young, Trustee Sale Officer WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P979239 8/29, 9/5, 09/12/2012

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